India's Struggle for Freedom

—AN ALBUM

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Government of West Bengal

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Editorial Committee

Foreword

All important trends and episodes of our freedom struggle should be represented aptly and adequately in any historical account of that struggle. Though various attempts have been made to chronicle the country's freedom movement yet in many such accounts the facts of history are not depicted impartially and objectively. Distortion of facts and unjustified evaluation often vitiate these documentations which will mislead the future generations. In India the struggle against the British imperialism found expression in two distinct trends; one was the non-violent mass movement and the other was the violent struggle. The country's Independence was achieved as a result of the struggles waged on those two different lines. Naturally those two trends deserve to be given due importance whenever any documentation of India's freedom struggle is attempted. Any move to devalue the contribution of either of the two struggles is thoroughly wrong and misleading. It is urgently important to rectify such a tendency. What is also necessary to note is that in different phases of our national history, common people of the country participated in several mass movements, both non-violent and violent.

Our Government is keen on presenting the history of India's freedom struggle in an appropriate perspective. The present publication of the State Government entitled, "India's Struggle for Freedom" is a compilation of photographs and historical accounts depicting the contribution of various movements and individuals towards the attainment of the country's freedom. The role of the great freedom fighters is an abiding source of inspiration to all future generations. At the present moment, certain motivated and misguided elements are active to disrupt the unity and integrity of the country. The paramount need of the hour is to confront them collectively and foil their sinister designs. In this task, too, we should recall the glorious deeds of the great freedom fighters and draw inspiration from them in combating the present menace. Our endeavour in presenting this book will be rewarded if this volume is appreciated by all sections of the people.

Jyoti Basu

Chief Minister, West Bengal.

Preface

"Nations which are fortunate find their eternal motherland in the history of the country itself; it is this history that introduces them with the country in their very childhood. In our case it is just the opposite. History of the country itself has obscured our vision of the motherland. The chronicles whatsoever from the invasion of Mahmud down to Lord Curzon's outpourings of imperialistic arrogance present a veritable smokescreen for India. It does not help our awareness of the motherland, rather obfuscates it. Artificially it highlights such aspects that we lose sight of the country in its essence" regretted Rabindranath in utter dismay while observing on the history written by the Europeans and the English-educated Indians in colonial India. Indeed the motherland remained mostly beyond our comprehension as we attempted to understand it in the borrowed light.

It is four decades now that the country became free But our idea of history has not gone beyond the chronology of one's ascending the throne or period of reign here. If the darkness in our mind shrouds the concept of the country itself what is the use of so called education and what remains in such education to take pride in. But we know that the prime objective of the study of history is education—the education which steers the country to the path of progress. Our sacred duty should best be to rid the country of the distorted history and set it in the right perspective in the radiance of true history.

Patriotism grows out of a close understanding of man and society of the land in the innermost depths of consciousness. It is this partiotism that took the shape of anti-British liberation movement through a succession of insurrections and resurgence. After the farce of Plassey, the English traders took some time to decide on whether they would rule or just exploit. Eventually they settled for both and soon started facing resistance from the native people. Through a series of numerous revolutionary struggles—Fakir, Sanyasi, Wahabi, Santal, Sepoy—the freedom movement in Bengal, nay India, reached the climax in the first half of the twentieth century. The freedom that has been achieved through the formal ouster of British imperialism, the freedom that generated from the confluence of a multitude of currents and crosscurrents of ideologies and methods, and for which innumerable Indians laid their lives—the checkered frame work of its history is yet to be reconstructed in its entirety.

Some fragmented accounts of the different streams might have been written but an orderly fullfledged history is yet a far cry. But without proper realisation of that history it is absurd to enjoy the freedom as it is impracticable to direct the struggle for creating a society free from exploitation for the common masses in the proper direction as a sequel to the freedom which came through the blood-offerings of countless heroes. The recent spurt of separatist and secessionist tendencies has been possible because of the waning sense of values about Indianness and nationalism. But the mainstay of our freedom movement was the dream to build one-India irrespective of class, caste and creed. This dream can not be fulfilled without an understanding of the cultural heritage and tradition of past struggles.

This very sense of responsibility prompted the Deptt. of Information & Cultural Affairs to set up in 1980 a permanent exhibition named 'India In Quest Of Freedom'. Its objective is to present through writings and photographs the real picture of the different streams of our glorious freedom struggle before the present generation. The strict adherence to the facts, the impartial conciousness of history and the mass orientation as depicted in this exhibition have already created a demand for chronicling and printing in thousands the colourful struggle of India winning freedom for reaching larger number of the people. To save the future generations from the snare of the distorted history, it was an urgent necessity. This Government while understanding the historic importance of this demand, has had to shoulder the task of printing this pictorial history, Muktir Sangrame Bharat (India's struggle for freedom) inspite of the huge expenditure involved. The task, however, is onerous, because history must, of necessity, be impartial, true and factual. But this task has remained unfulfilled yet. Needless it is to say that while it is not a chronological history, it is nothing but a pictorial story introducing all the streams of that glorious struggle.

At the request of our Government, an Editorial Committee consisting of twenty three veteran freedom fighters, famous historians and researchers unhesitatingly discharged the task of writing this document of factual history. And thanks to their tireless labour and research the manuscript of this anthology could be finished within one and a half years only. Particularly noteworthy in this respect is the contribution made by Sri Chinmohan Sehanobis. I believe not only our Government but also the readers at large will remain grateful to the Editorial Committee of this book. This, notably, is the first attempt on the part of a single State Government to bring out such a pictorial history of the freedom struggle of India as a whole. This English edition is being brought out to cater to the needs of the readers of other languages. While maintaining a high standard of production, we have tried to keep the price within the purchasing power of the common people. If the book is now well received by the readers, the labour of all concerned will be rewarded.

Finally, I, on behalf of the State Government sincerely congratulate all of those who have cooperated in writing, printing and publishing this work.

Prabhas Phodikar
Minister of State-in-charge
Information & Cultural Affairs Deptt.

March 16th, 1987

Introduction

The object of publishing this Album "India's Struggle for Freedom" is to bring to light the organised role of common people in the anti-colonial struggle in our country during the years 1757 to 1947. Important though this role is, it has yet remained relatively untold. Brief factual accounts and authentic documents and visuals including rare photographs, sketches, paintings relating to various events and individuals in our struggle for freedom have constituted the principal material of this Album. The short introductory chapter which has been set in the beginning of this publication highlights diverse streams of our freedom struggle and, more prominently, the following ones:

(1) Resistance against the British Colonialists put up by the princes, jagirdars and landlords of the older Mughal days who lost their power with the advent of the British.
(2) Struggles of the peasants, artisans and disbanded soldiers and lathials of the princes.
(3) Struggles of the tribal people
(4) Wahabi and Farazi revolts.
(5) New awakening among the educated middle class and social-reform movement.
(6) Revolt of the Indian sepoys of the British Indian Army, particularly the great uprising of 1857.
(7) Struggle led by the Indian National Congress.
(8) Armed Struggle of the national revolutionaries.
(9) Struggle of the Indian National Army.
(10) Struggle of the people in native states and
(11) Struggle of the workers, peasants, students and youths inspired by the Marxist ideology.

The visuals are arranged chronologically, as far as possible. However, for the sake of thematic unity, a little variation could not be avoided.

The limitation of this Album is obvious. It is not a detailed chronicle of the whole period, but a mere attempt at introducing the readers at large with different streams of the great freedom struggle of India. The structural limitation of the book notwithstanding, the glorious role of the people organised all over our country against the imperialist domination in those tumultuous days of the anti-colonial struggles has been presented within a short compass. In doing so, despite all our care some ommissions and commissions are not unlikely but that is unintentional.

Amar Prosad Chakraborty, a member of our Editorial Committee passed away before the completion of this book. We convey our respects to his memory.

Editorial Committee,
"India's Struggle for Freedom."

CONTENTS

India's Struggle for Freedom

Two centuries of the history of Indian dependence to British rule begins with the treachery, the intrigue and the farce of the battle of Plassey in 1757. The various storms that had passed over India till then, i.e. foreign attacks, internal dissension or other disasters had affected the upper ranks of Indian society. The results of the British conquest of India were far more widespread. England destroyed the basic framework of Indian society, without signs of general revivification. The misfortunes imposed on India by the British were far greater than its previous misfortunes. India, ruled by Britain was alienated from its endogenous heritage.

The people of India, however, did not necessarily accept this in a deferential way. Practically from 1760, Indian resistance struggles began against the exploitation and rule of the East India Company. Who were the people who came forward in these resistance struggles? Discontent first burst out among the poorer and working people -- tribals, peasants, remnants of the indigenous troops (those who were really peasants in military livery). In many cases, they were given leadership by segments of the dispossessed, old chieftain, nawabi and land holding class. The Nawab of Bengal, Mir Kasim lighted the torch of resistance. Installed at Murshidabad in 1760, he found peasants, weavers, and merchants of Bengal Subah were discontented by East India Company's servants' oppression. In letters to the Board's president in Calcutta, Vansittart, he wrote that British officials were taking away commodities by force from the peasants and merchants; that they either did not pay just price, or if they did, paid only fractionally; and that the Company's Indian agents behaved as if they themselves were the landholders, landlords or proprietors. The English did not heed Mir Kasim's protest. In 1763 the Nawab promulgated a *firman* abolishing all internal trade duties in Bengal Subah — so that Indian merchants had the opportunity to compete on equal terms with the British merchants, who had, previously, alone enjoyed exemptions from such duties. The result was war between the British and the Nawab. At Buxar (1764) the troops of Mir Kasim, Shuja-ud-daulah, Nawab-Wazir of Awadh and the fugitive Emperor of Delhi, Shah Alam II were defeated by the British. The Awadh Nawab and Shah Alam II submitted. But Mir Kasim did not accept defeat. With his family he took refuge in the refractory area of Rohilkhand, now in Uttar Pradesh. As long as he lived, he endeavoured to organize forces against the British in India. So he has been correctly called "a defeated but great fighter in India's freedom struggle".

In the first century of Company's rule quite a few princes, Nawabs and landholders of the indigenous principalities took up this torch, supported by common people of those areas. The British rulers could frustrate these resistance movements by deceit, treachery, and force; but this cannot diminish the glory of these resistance movements. Just two representatives among the very many brave men and women of this type of leadership are being mentioned here — Tipu, the Sultan of Mysore, and the princess of Kittur, a small principality in Karnataka.

Haidar Ali and his son Tipu were the main obstacles to the expansion of British empire in South India. Tipu was trying to modernise the economy of his state and military power and to take help of the French, who, at this time, were enemies of the British. The Governor General Wellesly attacked Tipu's kingdom with a large military force. The British troops occupied the Mysore capital, Seringapatan through a local commander's treachery. Tipu fell on the ramparts, fighting bravely. His anti-British militant heritage was carried on by a son, a grandson and indeed even in the 20th century by his granddaughter's daughter Nurunnesa (Noor Inayet Khan) in the present century.

Kittur was a small principality near Belgaum in Karnataka. When its prince died without a son, the British rulers endeavoured to incorporate the principality within their empire. The widowed princess

Channamma resisted, beginning her struggle in 1825. She was imprisoned after unequal battles by the British, and died in custody. But the resistance did not end. The relay of revolt was carried on by Rayanna who came from a peasant household in Sangoli. The cultivators carried on resistance struggle in the countryside, for three years, only after which could the British troops drown this movement in blood, brutally killing Rayanna, the leader of the revolt.

While some of the indigenous ruling class, who were losing their own power to dominate, were keeping alive resistance to English paramountcy in this way, throughout the country in innumerable scattered localities, the toiling poor were rising up and revolting — people who were cultivators and forest tribal people. *Some instances of this may be given.*

From the time of the Bengal famine of 1770-71, the toiling peasantry, both Hindus and Muslims, all over north Bengal revolted against oppressive British rule and their revenue collecting agents. Fakirs and Sannyasis gave them leadership. Majnu Shah and Bhabani Pathak were prominent among them. These uprisings continued in North Bengal and parts of Central Bengal for about three decades. Even the Governor General of Bengal, Warren Hastings had to admit in his reminiscences that these rebels numbered more than half a lakh, that more than one English officer lost his life, and several English companies were defeated in endeavouring to quell these insurgencies. It took the British at least a decade of burning villages and slaughtering the people before they could suppress the uprisings. At about the same time, in 1783 and 1784 there was a widespread peasant uprising in Rangpur district of north Bengal, which also was not insignificant. Over the entire rarh tract of West Bengal (in the districts of Bankura and Midnapore) Chuars revolted for about 30 years till 1799. This revolt began in Dhalbhum in 1767. Its leader was the local chief's nephew Jagannath Dhal (or Dhavaldeva). Captain Morgan's troops were totally defeated trying to crush the uprising. In a secret letter to Governor Verelst in Calcutta, he wrote that practically the whole of Dhalbhum and the Jangle Mahals had been in revolt against British rule. The Chandrakona region of Midnapore was another centre of revolt, where a leader of rebels was Gobardhan Dikpati (or hereditary village boundary guard).

Warren Hastings failed to quell the Chuar uprisings. The district administrator to Bankura wrote in his diary in 1787 that the Chuar revolt was so widespread and fierce that temporarily, the Company's rule had vanished from the district of Bankura. Finally in 1799 the Governor General, Wellesley crushed these uprisings by a pincer attack. An area near Salboni in Midnapore district, in whose mango grove many rebels were hung from trees by the British, is still known by local villagers as "the heath of the hanging upland", Phansi Dangar Math. Some years later under the leadership of Jagabandhu the paymaster or Bakshi (of the infantry of the Puri Raja), there was the well-known widespread Paik or retainer uprising in Orissa. In 1793 the Governor General Cornwallis initiated in the entire Presidency of Bengal a new form of Permanent Settlement of revenue to loyal landlords. This led to misfortunes for the toiling peasantry: in time they would protest against this as well.

Such revolts of the people of the poorer classes did not take place only in Bengal Presidency, but in many parts of India. From 1817 to 1846 these were scattered Bheel uprisings — in Khandesh, Dhar, Malwa and Baglana. The Bheel headmen of the villages generally led these uprisings. One of the leaders of the Bheel revolt of 1825 in Khandesh, Shiuram was a blacksmith. In 1824 – 25 in the Central India Bundelkhand division of Uttar Pradesh there was a united uprising against British rule by poor peasants, both Muslim and Hindu. One of its leaders was Nana Pandit, another Shaikh Dalla. They were joined by the fugitive rebel leader of the old Nagpur principality Appa Saheb, and a segment of the Pindari raiders. The British could crush this uprising after several years of wanton oppression. But this revolt linger in the strains of a popular song in Bundelkhand: "Below is the earth, above Allah/our hope is in Shaikh Dalla"

A similar revolt broke out under the leadership of Jat peasantry in 1824 in the districts of Rohtak and Hissar in the present state of Haryana. The Koli uprising lasted from 1839 till 1845 all over western Gujarat. Revolt broke out in 1845 in the districts of Sawantwadi and Kolhapur in Maharashtra. Ultimately this had to be defeated by the English General Outram.

In the north eastern region of India in the present state of Meghalaya the Khasi revolt was organised by the aboriginal people there from 1829 to 1833. About 10,000 Khasis carried on guerrilla warfare bringing the early British administration of the Khasi Hills to a halt. Only after four years could the English crush the insurgency by burning villages barbarously, and slaying its leader Tiroth Sing.

In the same way, from 1830 to 1833, there were aboriginal uprisings over a wide tract of Chotanagpur's tribal area. Hundreds of thousands of Mundas from Ranchi to Manbhum participated. Thousands of tribal men, women and children were imprisoned at Chaibasa and several were shot by the English. Five thousand square miles were devastated.

One of the most important aboriginal revolts was the Santal uprising of 1855. Sidhu, Kanhu, Bhairo and others led myriads of Santals to a gathering on the Bhagnadiha heath, for deciding to end British rule of

their territory and establishing Santal independency. Working people in neighbouring villages such as blacksmiths, potters, weavers and oilpressers gave the Santals active support. They marched towards Calcutta. Conflict broke out. Finally, the British required cannons and muskets to put down this rebellion. Sir W.W. Hunter has written that, as long as their drums could be beaten, not one rebellious Santal would surrender. 15 thousand Santals were slaughtered in this rebellion by the British imperialists.

The first century of British rule is full of such minor or major peasant and tribal uprisings. Connection between them was difficult as they were internally divisive and scattered in character. Yet they jolted the colonial and feudal exploitative and administrative arrangements of British imperialism. To appease peasant revolt, the British also had to make some changes in its apparatus of revenue management. Yet the blood stained experience of rebellions over far-flung Indian regions left deep impressions on the minds of the common people in the regions where the revolts took place. In the next phase, this created the atmosphere in which the freedom struggle could proceed.

The Wahabi and Faraizi struggles were somewhat different cases of resistance movement during the first century. The revolting Wahabis desired to revive a fundamentalist and purified Islamic religion, cleansed of doctrinal and ethical lapses. Despite this religious garb, the Wahabi movement took on the character of a liberation struggle against foreign British rule. The originator of the Wahabi revolt in India was Saiyad Ahmed Baelvi (1786-1831). His basic teaching was that India had become Dar-ul-Harb or a country inimical to Islam since foreign Britons (with a different religion) ruled it. He proclaimed that the English were the main enemies of India and that the duty of all Wahabis was to extirpate this foreign rule. He wrote to a Maratha leader that it was necessary for Indians to join together to make the land free by driving the British out.

The tide of Wahabi revolt reached Bengal as well. The leader of this revolt in the villages of Swarupnagar and Baduria in the vicinity of Barasat (near Calcutta) was Mir Nisar Ali, alias Titu Mir. Titu Mir was able to build a free zone over a tract where colonial rule was weakened. The Joint Magistrate of Barasat Alexander was defeated by Titu. Finally his bamboo fortification had to be destroyed by cannon, and Titu and 40 others died heroes' deaths. 800 rebels were imprisoned. Titu's commander Rasul was sentenced to death, the rest to transportation to a penal settlement for life. After this, for many years the British took to suppressing any movements nourished by Muslim popular mass support by labelling them indiscreminately as Wahabi.

The first convicts transported to the Andaman Islands were the Wahabis. When Lord Mayo, Viceroy of India went to inspect the Andamans in 1872, a Wahabi convict named Sher Ali stabbed Mayo to death. Sher Ali later proudly proclaimed in the courtroom, 'Brother, I have despatched our enemy'. The Judge who sentenced Sher Ali to death was later assassinated by a Wahabi rebel.

The Faraizi movement was similar to that of the Wahabis. In 1842 the Faraizi leader, Dudu Mian procalimed that the proprietor of all land is Allah, men are equal in his eyes, so those of his fellows who revere Allah would no more pay rents to landlords; they would not sow indigo for planters, nor obey foreign rule. Dudu Mian was born in Madaripur subdivision of Faridpur District (now in Bangladesh), his original name was Muhammad Sohain. This aroused enthusiasm among the poor peasants, artisans and other rural working folk.

Dudu Mian was a competent organiser. He divided Bengal into several regions which he called Halkas. About 300 to 400 Faraizis lived in each Halka. There would be one organiser called *ustad* at the head of each Halka: several thousand of them in Bengal with Dudu himself at their head. Each Faraizi village was governed by Panchayati arrangements. Each Faraizi was bound on oath to help co-sectaries in case of oppression by white indigo planters and *Zamindars*.

The Farizi movement spread from Madaripur to Bakharganj. From there, it was disseminated to Dacca, Comilla and Mymensingh on the one hand, and to Jessore and 24 Parganas on the other. A semi-official account would have it that one/sixth of Bengal of those days was influenced by this movement. The planters, Indian landlords and British magistrates felt disturbed. Many Faraizis were arrested. Dudu Mian was imprisoned: he died in prison in 1862.

However, it is a fact that since the Wahabi and Faraizi movements were restricted to muslims, the movement had certain sectarian limitations. And it need hardly be noted that the British bureaucracy took full advantage of this.

The century-long anti-British government rebellions, divided and scattered as they were, which germinated anti-British consciousness among the peasants and the urban poor, were woven together on a India-wide frame by the sepoys of the Indian Army. In an age which preceded the birth of the working class, these troopers performed the duty of being the vanguard of anti-imperialist liberation struggle. The Wahabi rebels made their support known to the sepoy mutineers.

Discontent had long been growing among the Indian troopers of the British armed forces in India. In times of war, the Indian sepoys fought in the front ranks, they gave their lives before the rest, but they were treated as servile and their pay was half that of the British. On top of this came weird instructions. The Governor-General Barlow ordered in 1806 that Hindu sepoys could not wear the tika on their foreheads, that Muslim sepoys would have to shave their beards. And turbans were prohibited. In place of turbans, they would have to wear leather caps, which might have been sewn from cows' or pigs' skins. Hindu and Muslim sepoys were enraged. This diktat of the Governor-General was repudiated by Sepoys at Vellore near Madras. The British Commander Colonel Gillespie sentenced the ringleaders to death and sternly suppressed the Vellore Mutiny.

But sepoy discontent grew. In 1828, the sepoys were given orders to go by sea to Rangoon to fight in Burma. The sepoys who were quartered in Bengal refused to go. The English Commander-in-Chief, Paget had some sepoys shot and hanged the ringleaders. The mutiny was defeated but the embers of discontent scattered from one cantonment to another.

In 1853, some angry Muslim sepoys tried to kill an English commander near Hyderabad. Local Hindu sepoys refused to arrest them. Lord Dalhousie the Governor-General sternly repressed the rebellion. The Hindu and Muslim sepoys of Hyderabad cantonment were dismissed from service.

In May, 1857, first at Meerut cantonment, then at Delhi, open mutiny broke out among the sepoys. Even before that, on 29 March, 1857, the young sepoy Mangal Pande had raised the banner of revolt in Barrackpur cantonment near Calcutta. He gave his life on the gallows. In the bulletin issued by the rebel sepoys in Delhi to the people, they wrote that the land had lost its freedom to the British, the common people were impoverished and destitute they were tortured by heavy taxes, there was scarcity of food and clothing, and even women's honour was at stake, there was no limit to English oppression how long would Indians submit to this insult, this misery.

The Revolt started in Meerut cantonment on 9 May, 1857. On 11 May the mutineers captured Delhi and proclaimed Bahadur Shah as Emperor of independent India. The flames of rebellion burst out at Lucknow, and then all over the Awadh region. On the 4th June, Kanpur rose in revolt. Gradually the revolt spread from south of the Sutlej to Bihar, from Uttar Pradesh to Central India - i.e. in the entire Hindi-Urdu speaking tract. Where mass revolt did not break out, there also scattered uprisings occurred. In official language, the masses were 'disturbed". The foundations of British imperialism were shaken to their roots.

Writing far away, in London, on the basis of reports sent by the British themselves, Karl Marx made the following correct evaluation of the Sepoy Revolt at the end of June, 1857: "This is not a military mutiny but a national revolt".

British commanders or civilian officials who were in India in 1857-1858, have given practically the same estimate. Thornhill writes:

> "Within a week of the revolt breaking out, the British Empire was practically at an end"

The historian Kaye wrote the whole of Awadh and Bundelkhand had risen in popular revolt, and that beyond the capital, British administration everywhere had fallen like a house of cards. A British magistrate of the Awadh region wrote that wherever there were revolts, there the rebels looted the government treasury, set fire to military barracks, and opened the jail gates by smashing their locks. The historian Rice Holmes writes: "Dispossessed landlords organised their angry peasantry to drive out the feudal classes supported by the British. The debtridden, oppressed agriculturists slaughtered usurious moneylenders, against whom their rage had been piling up for many years".

Even in Bengal supposed to be relatively peaceful, there was suppressed anger. Russell, the correspondent of 'The Times' was then in India. In his Diary, published in 1860, he wrote about his journey through Burdwan town in 1857: "In no instance is a friendly glance cast towards the white man's carriage. oh! that language of the eye! who can doubt it? Who can misinterpret it?"

The paper 'Payam-i-Azadi' was the mouthpiece of the 1857 Revolt. It was written in one of its editorials: "The government tries to use Hindus and Muslim against each other. Brothers; Don't place yourselves in this devilish trap. Hindus, Muslim, brothers; Forgetting trivial divisions, join under the same banner in the fight for freedom"

In Awadh, Bihar and Central India, for one year, the rebel troops, the common working people of villages and towns fought with remarkable courage against the British. The British commander Hugh Rose writes that when he was fighting to recapture Jhansi, then countless women and men standing side by side defended the town and as a result he had to storm Jhansi by 'drowning it in rivers of blood'. Charles Ball has left a remarkable eyewitness account of how after losing an arm to a cannonball, the octogenarian rebel leader, Kunwar Singh counterattacked British troops and repulsed them. It is well known how the heroic princess of Jhansi, Lakshmibai met martyrdom on the

battlefield and Tantia Tope, trapped in treacherous wiles, smilingly stepped on the gallows.

In 1877, the youthful Rabindranath justly wrote in the 'Bharati' periodical: "Tantia Tope and Kunwar Singh were not merely two petty rebels. If one has to write history, their names will have to be placed along with the great heroes".

The British imperialists brutally repressed this freedom struggle in India. Many sepoys were tied to the muzzles of cannon, then barbarously blown from guns. Village after village was set on fire. The people of the country were indiscriminately slaughtered all over North and Central India. Marx wrote: "English commanders have written of widespread rape, beating children to death and burning of villages". The English historian Kaye too wrote "Infuriated English troops bayonetted women, infants and even old people. They let loose violence in Delhi". Of course, the most revolutionary among English working class leaders Ernest Jones expressed support for the mutineers and penned his famous poem "Revolt of Hindustan".

The revolt was crushed, but anger against alien domination began to fester among Indians, and it was these seeds which bore revolutionary potential for the future

About ninety percent of the Indian people lived in villages. The British rulers had made few attempts to diffuse education or knowledge among them. But, even if they had to govern India well, they needed an Indian class of English-educated people. The father of the policy of Anglicised education, Macaulay, has openly declared that they had one objective for opening the portals of higher education by means of English education: to create an educated Anglicised class of gentry, staunchly loyal to Western civilisation, who would be differentiated from the lives and values of the myriads of their impoverished countryfolk and loyal to British rule.

In Rabindranath's language: "One group of urbanites gained by this opportunity, education, prestige, wealth. They were the ones to be enlightened, the illuminate. The ones who learnt English by rote on their school branches, were the ones who learnt to identify educated society as the country at large. It was from that time that there grew in progressively cheerless ill-educated villages, scarcity of water, difficulties of roads, disease, ignorance".

Consequently, the awakening that took place in the newly enlightened society of India, despite its total contribution, did retain very many limitations. Yet this educated society did not only remain devoted to England. A section of its next two generations learnt from this Western education, the ideas of freedom, democracy, and the fundamentals of progress. Side by side in their consciousness with infatuation and subordination to British rule, their group developed the first seeds of westernised criticism and protest. In a later period, it was these seeds which took the form of national movement for freedom of the entire country. One section of the wealthy, educated, Indian middle class, looking at the English industrial revolution dreamt of modernising industrial development for India. This rising bourgeois class of India initially believed that it could fulfil the work of Indian industrialization, with British official collaboration. But the hard knocks of reality made such people, from Dwarkanath Tagore to the late nineteenth century cotton mill owners realise that British imperialism wished essentially to exploit India, and that in the last resort colonialism would never stretch out the hand of Indo-British cooperation. And, it was from this realisation that was spelled out through the subsequent period of freedom struggle, the dual aspect of the dialectics of cooperation and conflict, within the Indian bourgeois class and colonialism.

Rammohun Ray had been the unquestioned standard bearer of the earliest stage of the trend of awakening of the educated community. He was disturbed by the religious fanaticism, ignorance and superstitions of contemporary leaders of society. After studying Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and Christian tenets deeply, he expressed the opinion that there was fundamental unity in all the religious opinions of the world, that there was no reason for conflict, and that this was what the Vedanta stated. So he believed that there should be fraternity among people of all the regions of the world. To propagate this view, he set up an organisation in 1828, called the *Brahmo Sabha*. Later its name was changed to *Brahmo Samaj*. In connection with its preachings, there also grew up in Bombay, a similar organisation for religious and social reform - the *Prarthana Samaj*

Reactionary and self-interested leaders of society of those times, who were greedy of the wealth of widowed women, had maintained principally for that reason, the practice of burning on the pyres of their husbands, widows, who were called "Satis" or virtuous women, referring to those submitted to death with their deceased husbands. Rammohun carried on through out his life successful propaganda against this practice. Particularly when, one-hundred-and-fifty years after this, bride torture still remains in India, masquerading under the name of dowry system, then Rammohun's campaign surely appears very significant.

Apart from this, Rammohun's forceful opinions in favour of freedom of the press and of democratic movements all over the world are an indispensible heritage for the progress of our national movement.

Yet the limitation of his ideology can surely be seen in Rammohun's view that the future progress and welfare of the country would come under the aegis of British rule.

In the same period there was another progressive trend among the students of Calcutta's Hindu College. The originator of this trend was the young teacher Henry Louis Vivian Derozio. He was like an elder brother and friend of his students. Among them he tried to arouse feelings of rationalism, patriotism and revolutionary consciousness. His followers are known by the name of 'Young Bengal'. In an essay of 1835 (the year of T.B. Macaulay's 'Education Minute' to the Governor-General-in-Council which advocated Anglicisation of higher education) a young student of Hindu College, Kailash Chandra Dutt dreamed that a hundred year later an armed popular uprising was taking place against British rule in India. And, another youth, Uday Chand Adhya wrote an essay demanding that the medium of education and official work should be the mothertongue.

Derozio wrote a patriotic poem in English about India, which was translated into Bengali by Rabindranath's eldest brother, Dwijendranath Tagore. It was the Young Bengal group which organised the first political organisation in this country, the Bengal British India Society. The bilingual journal of this was the Bengal Spectator.

The influence of Young Bengal was to be seen in the middle of the nineteenth century in the 'Young Bombay party'. Its foundar was the school teacher of Bombay, Naoroji Fardunji. Their objective was overall reform of society, and they had a journal called the Rast Goftar. About the same time, a similar movement was started in Madras by Gazulu Lakshminaran Chetty.

But the principal midnineteenth century social reformer of India was definitely Iswarchandra Vidyasagar. He was born on 29 September, 1820 in the village of Birsingha in Medinipur district. Having gained great learning in Bengali and Sanskrit in his youth, he started his teaching career in 1841 at Fort William College in Calcutta, as its Head Pandit. It was he who prepared readers in his mother tongue Bengali for little children - the 'Barnaparichaya', the 'Bodhodaya', the 'Kathamala' the 'Vetal-panchavimsati'. He opened a new vista before the children of Bengal. As an Inspector of the Government School Department, he was able within merely four years to set up twenty model schools for boys and thirty-five of them for women. It was Vidyasagar who was able to bring girls in this part of the country out of the darkness of the veil into the enlightenment of knowledge.

And yet, the greatest achievement of his life was the initiation of the practice of Hindu widow-remarriage. In those times, girls were married in childhood, and if they were widowed before they could learn what marriage meant, they were still forced to follow various cruel rules of social custom. Vidyasagar entered the fray against this inhuman practice, disregarding all social resentment and abuse. The Widow Remarriage Act was passed in 1855. At this time, the weaving-women of Santipur printed on the borders of their famous handwoven *Saris*, the sentence: "Long may live Vidyasagar, blessed with eternal life". Vidyasagar's only son wedded a young widow. Vidyasagar wrote to his brother: 'My son has given me glory". Even in the nineteenth century awakening, examples are scarce of such an idealist and patriot in word and in deed, in social life and in private life.

Peasant revolts flared up after even the brutal repression of 1857. Certain changes were found in the character of these rural resistance movements. From now on, in many case, peasants began to directly struggle for their own demands against the government, foreign landlords, and indigenous landowners and usurers. In 1859-60, popular discontent was widespread over a large tract of central Bengal against the misbehaviour of British indigo planters; this is known as the Blue Revolt or Indigo Revolt. Hindu and Muslim peasants gathered together in numbers to proclaim that they would not sow any more the plant from which indigo was extracted. Even a British member of Parliament of the time has called the barbarous oppression of the British indigo planters and their armed retainers "unimaginably inhuman". The indigo cultivators resistance to them remained undaunted. A section of the educated intelligentsia came forward in their support. Memorable among the latter was Harishchandra Mukherjee and his "Hindoo Patriot's" role. Dinabandhu Mitra wrote his play "Nil Darpan" or "The Mirror of Indigo" at this time.

Indigo cultivators' protests broke out, after this, from time to time in the nineteenth century - in Jessore in 1883 and in 1889-90, and in Darbhanga and Champaran from 1866 to 1868. In the sixties and 'seventies of the nineteenth century, patriotic Sikhs were organised in the Kuka Revolt. In 1872, the English troops repressed the Kuka rebellion brutally. A British official named Cowan cruelly killed 59 Kukas by blowing them from guns. The picture of this brutality has been captured in the portrait of a contemporary Russian travelling painter Vereschtchagin. The leader of this rebellion, Ram Singh gave up his life in deportation in Rangoon in 1885.

Peasant insurgency again flared up in north and east Bengal in the 1870s. The big landlords of this region were very oppressive. They would forcibly take possession of peasant crops and lands at will and

however they could; or arbitrarily increase the rates of rent. In 1873, the peasants of Sirajganj subdivision, Pabna District first grouped together against this and then organised non-rent leagues. Poor peasants, Hindu and Muslims united together in this struggle. Their demand was that none would pay enhanced rents. The British government took the side of the landlords. This divided the educated class, but its progressive wing supported the insurgent peasantry. It may be said that this struggle first made the rural areas familiar with techniques of forming peasant leagues and organising strikes.

In the Deccan at about the same time in the districts of Pune and Ahmednagar in Maharashtra, a fairly widespread presant insurgency began. The peasants of this region would get entrapped in debts to usurious moneylenders in their liability to pay high revenue assessents to the government. They were forced into exptremes of poverty. Towards the end of 1874, the Pune and Ahmednagar peasantry first began a social boycott against the moneylenders; this took on the form of popular conflict. They snatched away loan deeds by force and burned them. Frightened by courageous resistance, the police fled away. Infantry, cavalry and artillery troops were sent to crush the peasant revolt. The insurgency was swamped in blood. Progressive intellectuals in Pune and other parts of Maharashtra supported this brave peasant struggle. The indomitable Basudev Phadke came forward to lead the insurgents in armed guerrilla resistance. Phadke was the son of a well-to-do Brahman family of Colaba district in Maharashtra, and he had a government appointment. Distressed by peasant sufferings, he quit his post to organize peasant struggle. For a few months, he placed the British administrators in a quandary. He was then captured and deported to the distant and arid British colony of Aden at the tip of Arabia. In 1883 he died there in prison.

Peasant unrest was expressed in other parts of the country as well. As an example, we may take the Mopala peasants of southern Malabar, who were tormented by their Jenmimasters. From 1835 to 1854 there were at least 22 revolts among them. Mappilla revolts also took place 5 times from 1873 to 1880.

The peasants of the Brahmaputra Valley, racked by high revenue assessments now took to the path of resistance. They refused to pay revenue enhancements and made determined efforts to resist attempts of penal attachment of lands by the state. Here too the British had to use force in suppressing peasant unrest. Many peasants lost their lives to bullets and bayonents. Also, all over Chotanagpur in the last decade of the nineteenth century, there broke out the fearless popular revolt under Birsa Munda's leadership.

All these peasants had courage, heroism and self-sacrifice in good measure. But it was not possible for them to defeat the British armed with modern weapons with their pitifully limited organization and the lack of support of the urban middle class. What these insurgencies proved was the extent of anti-colonial power that lay dormant among the people.

Songs, poems, drama, short stories, etc. have played significant parts in the national movements and resistance struggles of practically all those countries, particularly those under alien rule, where such movements have taken place. There was no exception to this in India.

The first expression of nationalism in our country's literature is to be found in this sort of pride in our past history and this sort of patriotism based on such a historiographical context. Germinating nationalism was actually latent in the words put into the mouths of the Rajput heroes by the poet Rangalal Bandopadhyaya, "In the lack of freedom, who wishes to stay alive, O, who wishes to stay alive".

It was in Madhusudan Dutt's poetry that the first sharp expression of patriotic fervour took place after the initial infatuation of devotion to British rule had passed "O Bengal, in your treasury are various jewels; caring not for them, I wandered infatuated for the treasures of others" or "keep this slave in your heart, this entreaty I place at your feet". Satyendranath Tagore wrote the song "Incant the victory of India" for singing as the mass invocation at the Hindu Mela, one of the germinal national organisations. Mirza Ghalib wrote in Urdu stirring, patriotic songs. In Urdu mushairas, very many people used to take part in these emotions, singing out the lines. Many patriotic songs were also written in Marathi. In 1876, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya composed "Bande Mataram". And in 1876, too Dwarkanath Gangopadyaya edited and published the first collection of national songs of this country.

There was a common base note in the vernacular patriotic songs of various regions - Bharatvarsha is our motherland. India's oppression and exploitation has led to so much sorrow, misery and shame. Who is there to end this poverty and shame? Consequently this sort of poetry and song helped in the development and sharpening of patriotic feelings.

But the most emotion was aroused by dramatic performances of rousing plays in the theatres. The play "Neel Darpan" has already been mentioned. Sivanath Sastri has written that, watching the performance of "Neel Darpan" he used to feel that if there were no weapons close by, then he would like to tear the British planters to pieces with his bare teeth. The independent-minded Gaikwad, prince of Baroda was deposed in a conspiracy by the British Government.

The young dramatist Amritalal Basu wrote in criticism of this, the play "Heerak-churna" sharply condemning the British administrators. A play "Cha-kar Darpan" was written condemning the oppression of tea plantation managers. The wealthy devotee of the government, Jagadananda Mukherjee toadied to the Prince of Wales (heir-apparent of Queen Victoria) on his visit to India. A satirical playlet was written against him entitled "Gajadananda and the Heir-Apparent". In 1875, Upendranath Das wrote the play "Surendra-Binodini" on the first page of which was written:

"Neither heavenly bliss do I desire, nor the groves of paradise, if, for a moment, can I get freedom".

These plays were enacted in open theatres, and were tremendously appreciated by audiences. This disturbed the British administration. According to the Dramatic Performances Regulation Act of 1876 passed by the Viceroy, Lord Northbrook, no play could be performed in an open theatre without the permission of the Police Commissioner.

Many journals and newspapers also played their part in this age in awakening anti-imperialist consciousness. In 1858 the English Viceroy gave the fiat that Indians visiting Government House would have to salute British officials without headgear, unshod and bowing down. The Bengali weekly, "Somprakash" wrote a satirical editorial against this insolent diktat.

The pointed writings in favour of the cultivators at the time of the indigo strike, and against tea planters' oppression, by Harish Mukherjee and Dwarakanath Gangopadhyaya which were published in the Hindoo Patriot and the Sanjibani aroused anti-British feeling among educated society. Similar journals like the "Kesari" and the Hindu were published in Maharashtra and in Madras. The secret report of the British intelligence investigation department was that vernacular papers were propagating extreme anger against British rule. In 1878, the Viceroy Lord Lytton muzzled all newspapers by passing a repressive law - the Vernacular Press Act.

It was in 1878 that a Calcutta nationalist organisation, the Indian Association first gave the call for all India protest against a repressive law. The day of protest was practised on 18 April, 1878 in many Indian towns, under the leadership of Surendranath Banerjee, then in the nationalist forefront in Bengal. The British policy of repression instead of blighting the seeds of Indian national consciousness, stoked the fuel for the flames of nationalism. The conflict was intensified around the focus of the Ilbert Bill controversy.

Farsighted elements among the British imperialists were scared by the ensemble - discontent and revolt among the Indian poor peasantry on the one hand, the sharp criticism and initial germs of protest among the progressive sections of the middle class intelligentsia against British administration, on the other. Allan Octavian Hume wrote as their representative: India has become a smouldering volcano. A popular outburst will be the consequence of a policy of repression. Instead, accept some demands, channelise the steam of educated class anger by safety valves, and help in forming an appropriate national organisation.

In the meanwhile, the leaders of the Indian Association had invited at Calcutta in December 1883 the first meeting of the Indian National Conference. Its second session was also held in Calcutta in 1885. On the other hand, the Bombay nationalists were also feeling the need for an all-India organisation. Consequently the Indian National Congress was born in Bombay in 1885.

Two contradictory tendencies were clear in the National Congress from its very birth. One was to maintain British administration in India and make it more liberal and democratic. The approach of supporters of this trend was to pass critical resolutions, carry on propaganda, and petition. Later these people were known as Moderates.

The essential of the other trend was devotion to the goal of self-rule, and struggle for earning Indian self-rule, as well as sacrifice for that goal. Later, the supporters of that trend were known as Extremists.

The proposal for the Partition of Bengal came in this context. First Risley, then the Viceroy, Lord Curzon himself desired to break East Bengal away from Calcutta so as to weaken the rising force of Extremism in Bengal. Risley mentioned in a confidential letter the actual plan of imperialism: "Bengal's strength is in its unity. If this is divided, its strength will also be broken. One of our principal aims is to weaken this unified centre of resistance".

But Bengal did not submissively accept this imperialist game. The Bengal people, Hindu and Muslim alike, confronted it. In a vast concourse at the Town Hall on 7th August, 1905, the anti-Partition movement was initiated. A movement for rescinding the Partition was decided upon. An invitation was given in the "Sanjibani" for boycott of all foreign commodities, for the use of only indigenous products, or Swadeshi.

Bengal was partitioned on the 16th October, 1905 and many Muslims as well as Hindus observed it as a day of mourning. The *hartal* was observed in the towns as well as some villages of Bengal. Abstinence from cooked food was practised in many homes. Thousands of people participated barefoot in mourning processions, with Rabindranath's recently composed song on their lips: "The life of Bengalees, the minds of

Bengalees, brothers and sisters in the homes of all Bengalees, let them be one, let them be one, let them be one, O divine Lord".

The tide of Swadeshi spread from Calcutta to the district headquarters—Barisal, Mymensingh, Medinipur. Even the Moderate Gokhale himself in his Presidential speech to the Varanasi session of Congress had to say that the Bengal Partition was one of the "meanest acts" of British rule in India. Surendranath Banerjee thundered that they would smash British arrogance. Yet the leadership of the movement began to pass into Extremist hands—into those of Bipinchandra Pal, Aurobindo Ghosh, and outside Bengal, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai and others. The students became the life and soul of this movement. The first militant students' organisation, The anti-circular society, initiated in protest against a Government circular to prevent Swadeshi propaganda in schools joyfully took up the work of organising boycott of sale of foreign textiles in shops, and hawking bales of Indian-made cloth to people's homes while chanting Rajanikanta Sen's "Raise to your heads, O brothers, the coarse cotton bestowed on you by the Mother (land)".

The tides of boycott and Swadeshi flowed through Bengal, Maharashtra and the Punjab. In many towns, people held festivals to burn British cloth. Even some washermen vowed not to wash foreign cloth. Sweetmeat vendors took vows not to use British sugar for preparing sweets. Women took to ceremonially breaking bangles and househlod utensils made from British glass. Great emotional support in arousing this movement for indigenisation of production came from the songs of Rabindranath, Dwijendralal Roy, Rajanikanta, Atulprasad Sen and Mukunda Das and the patriotic plays of Kshirodeprasad Vidyavinode and many others.

On the other hand, there was great enthusiasm for the manufacture of various types of Swadeshi commodities. Innumerable indigenous textile factories, match and soap factories sprang up. P.C. Ray organised the famous Bengal Chemical works. Rabindranath busied himself in founding a Swadeshi Bhandar, Jamshedji Tata was able to base his steel factory on merely Swadeshi subscription. Banks and insurance companies grew up through Swadeshi enterprise. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai set up an indigenous steam navigation company at Tuticorin, a port in Tamil Nadu. Tilak and Lajpat Rai broadcast the idea of Swadeshi in Maharashtra and the Punjab. The driving force of Swadeshi in Delhi was Saiyad Hyder Reza. In 1921, at the time of composing "Hind Swaraj", Gandhiji too wrote that it was through the boycott movement of 1905 to 1908 that the national movement stepped from the stage of petitioning to that of resistance and struggle. The dissemination of national education was another massive work performed by the Swadeshi movement. The National Council of Education was set up—whose developed form is now Jadavpur University.

While the Swadeshi movement was basically limited to the educated middle class of the towns, it was not completely alien to rural peasantry or urban proletariat. The Extremist leaders realised the importance of orgainsing workers and peasants within Swadeshi movements, but they failed to link the demand for self-government *(Swaraj)* with even the minimal anti-landlord or anti-capitalist demands of peasants or workers. If such demands had been voiced, the latter would have enthusiastically joined in the struggle for self-determination of educated society.

Even so, many workers' strikes developed in Bengal—among workers in the East India Railway, in the Clive Jute Mills, in Burn Company, and in many neighbouring factories. Tilak gave the Bombay workers the call to strike. Chidambaram-Pillai had a successful factory strike in Cochin. It was in this age that some trade unions grew in India.

Discontent burst out at this time among indigo cultivators in Champaran, and a decade later, Gandhiji made this cause his own. There was widespread peasant awakening in Assam and Mymensingh. Aswini Kumar Dutt took the leadership of peasant consciousness in Barisal which included muslims.

A notable section of Muslim citizens also took part in the Swadeshi movement. When students used to hawk Swadesi cloth on the streets of Calcutta singing partiotic hymns, they were accompanied by Maulavi Liakat Hussain. The barrister, Abdul Rasul chaired the session of the political conference at Barisal in 1906 on which the local Magistrate and police unleashed brutal repression. The Magistrate, Emerson prohibited the raising of the slogan 'Bande Mataram' in any open procession. Disregarding the order, bleeding from lathis, the venerable Krishnakumar Mitra continually went on calling out 'Bande Mataram'. Many were severely beaten up along with Chittaranjan Guha Thakurta and the student volunteers. It was about this time, that Abul Kalam Azad began to preach revolutionary politics through the Urdu paper 'Al Helal'.

Despite all this glory in the movement for Swaraj and Swadeshi, in which the leadership passed to Extremists it was not free from serious limitations. The greatest weakness of the Extremists was partiality in their ideology to high caste and the Hindu religion. This proved to be an obstacle to the formation of stable and firm Hindu-Muslim unity. Due to unevennesses in social development, the affluent and middle class elements of Indian society were inducted into the

framework of Westernised education rather later, and received comparatively less opportunities for government employment and social advancement. As a result, communal grievances piled up. Taking full advantage of this, British imperialism incited communally divisive forces. The All-India Muslim League was formed with the patronage of senior British officials in Dacca (the headquarters of the newly partitioned province of Eastern Bengal and Assam) in 1906.

Of course, it would be wrong to jump to the conclusion that the Extremist leaders were all communalists. Many of them dreamt of united Hindu-Muslim movements. They also desired to abandon the sterile path of the politics of petitioning and to awaken their country in the way of independence, sacrifice and struggle.

From the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of twentieth century, in different parts of India a segment of fearless youth dreamt of liberating their countryfolk by armed revolutionary struggle. Two Maharashtrian brothers, Damodar and Vinayak Chapekar assassinated oppressive English officials. They went to the gallows, followed by a brother of theirs.\The Anushilan Samiti was founded in Bengal in 1902 by the barrister, Pramathanath Mitra.|Aurobindo Ghosh joined them from Baroda.Swami Vivekananda's spiritual disciple, Sister Nivedita was an important force in this group. After the imperialist repression of 1906 in Barisal, **Jugantar** the organ of the revolutionary outlook in Bengal openly noted in its editorial that:

> "if the 30 crores of country's population raise their 60 crores of hands aloft in the vow of resistance, then only will this oppression stop. Only force can silence this use of force".

The "Mitra Mela" was organized by the Savarkar brothers of Maharashtra. Madanlal Dhingra, a follower of Savarkar, assassinated in London Curzon Wylie,an English official. He courted a martyr's death. In her Paris journal "Talwar" the famous Parsee woman revolutionary Bhikaiji Rustom Cama wrote in firm support of his act in an editorial. Joining the International Socialist Congress of 1907 in Stuttgart, Madame Cama pressented the demand for India's freedom—the first time in a world gathering.

The revolutionary movement spread to South India. Chidambaram Pillai declared that full independence was India's objective. In Tinnevelly, a militant strike followed in protest to his arrest. The British Magistrate Ashe gave firing orders: many lives were lost. The revolutionary Vanchi Aiyar took revenge by killing Ashe and evaded arrest by committing suicide.

The revolutionary Khudiram Bose was arrested after attempting to shoot the oppressive Magistrate of Bengal Presidency Kingsford, and Khudiram's comrade in arms, Prafulla Chaki committed suicide. Khudiram was hanged and in the villages and towns of Bengal, the immortal story of the way he greeted martyrdom was spread through the lines of the folksong:

> "Give me Leave, O Mother, let me wander"

One of this revolutionary group had committed an act of betrayal. He was daringly shot in the prison itself by Satyendra Basu and Kanailal.

Punjab too had as glorious a place in the revolutionary movement as Maharashtra and Bengal. In particular it spread among the Sikhs. Rashbihari Basu used to act as a go-between with them and the Bengalis. In 1912, on the 12th December, a bomb was hurled at the Viceroy, Lord Hardinge (while he was making his ceremonial entry in British India's new capital of Delhi). The Viceroy was grievously hurt, but recoverd. A few revolutionaries were hanged. Rashbihari went underground to carry on revolutionary activities.

The story of this phase will have to be closed with just another event from 1908. When a British Magistrate, following the verdict of British jurymen ordered six years rigorous imprisonment for Tilak, then the Bombay working class came out in the first general strike of Indian national movement. Although many Indian leaders could not follow the significance of this historic event at the time, yet reading the news in exile, Lenin welcomed the revolutionary element in the Indian working class, and noted that the heyday of British imperialists in India was coming to an end.

Rallying the moderates and inciting the communalists, the British Government launched an assault on the Indian national movement by passing the 1909 Government of India Act, known as the Morley-Minto Reforms. They conferred the vote on less the 1% of the population, the elected representatives were given no majority in the central or provincial legislative asemblies, and what was more, a communal system of electoral representation was inserted. The Moderates were caught in the trap thus sprung, by and large supporting the 'Reforms' of 1909. The communal Muslim League also welcomed this Act. But voicing the discontented consciouness of youthful society in the country, the Extremist leader Bipin Pal declared that India would not "sell its soul for Morley's mess of pottage".

The First World War broke out in 1914—a struggle of greed between the old imperialist states and rising German imperialism. Displaying remarkable historical prescience, Rabindranath wrote the conflict has broken out between one interest and other. Self-interest will lead to catastrophe. It was during the first

world war that he wrote his penetrating essay in Bengali on 'the roots of war' and his English book Nationalism'—which stripped the mask from imperialism. Indian nationalists felt that if they could exert united pressure, then taking advantage of the War, they could make come advances. The supporter of Irish nationalism, Mrs. Annie Besant called for 'Home Rule' or limited self-government within the framework of British imperialism. Tilak joined her Home Rule League after his release from prison.

Meanwhile Congress and the Muslim League signed an acord among themselves at Lucknow in 1916. The Muslim League agreed to support of demand for Home Rule and the Congress accepted seperate electorates. But violent revolutionary movement again raised its head. In 1913, in U.S.A., Lala Hardayal, Sohan Singh Bhakna, Taraknath Das and others formed the 'Ghadr' Party. 'Ghadr' means revolt and it was inscribed in the first issue of the party's paper *Ghadr* "What is your name? Revolt. What is your work? Revolt. Where will you carry it out? In India. In what will you write the message of revolt? In Blood, not by words"

Many Sikh migrants reached Canada under leadership of Bawa Gurdit Singh in the hired Japanese ship, Komagata Maru but were not allowed to disembark. After much suffering, the ship returned towards Calcutta. When British troops attempted to arrest them, conflict broke out with the militant leadership of the travellers at Budge Budge near Calcutta port in September 1914. About 40 travellers lost their lives, more were injured, but Gurdit Singh and some of his comrades-in-arms were able to escape.

Under the leadership of a teacher in the nationalist Muslim college of Deoband, Maulana Obeidullah Sindhi, many young revolutionary Muslims left India for Baluchistan. They set up liberated government in a distant tract there. Later they shifted their headquarters to Kabul. They were joined by Raja Mahendra Pratap and Maulana Barkatullah. Sending secret news to Deoband students, they began to exert influence in favour of Indian revolution. But their ciphered silk handkerchief was intercepted, and the Government started the Silk Letter Conspiracy Case.

And in Bengal, under the leadership of the revolutionary hero, Jatindranath Mukherjee, making contact with the German Government through the Indian Revolutionary Committee at Berlin, there was an attempt to bring arms and amunition from Germany and build up a mass uprising in Bengal. But the British intelligence got wind of these plans. At Chashakhanada on the banks of the Burhi Balam river in Balasore District, Jatindranath and four of his comrades-in-arms confronted a large British force in unequal conflict. Chittapriya died in battle, Jatindranath in hospital and two of the heroes hanged.

The plan had been that on the 21st February, 1915, the Indian troops would simultaneously mutiny in North India and also where posted outside India. But the plan was betrayed by traitors to the British. Vishnu Ganesh Pingle was captured after a bomb attack near Ghotni cantonment at Meerut. Elsewhere, the young revolutionary leader, Kartar Shigh Sarabha was captured. Many were hanged in the First Lahore Conspiracy Case. Prithvi Singh Azad was deported for life, he is still happily alive among us. Rashbihari made a dramatic escape of Japan hoodwinking the British. Indian troops at Singapore had not got news of the failure of the concerted mutiny. After revolt they held out heroically for a week. Many of them faced martyrdom.

In the period of the first world war, many other scattered, limited attempts at armed uprisings were frustrated in India. Jatindranath's right-hand man, Narendranath Bhattacharya was sent to China and Japan, searching for arms. Evading imperialist arrest, he arrived in the U.S.A. with the assumed name of Manabendranath Roy; and journeyed thence to Mexico. Here he accepted Marxist views and was elected Secretary of the Mexican Socialist Party. At Lenin's invitation he travelled to Moscow, to participate in the 1920 Second Congress of the Communist International.

The revolutionary attempts were shattered indeed, but they scared British imperialism. It endeavoured to compromise with moderate nationalists. In August 1917, Montagu, the Secretary of State for India announced that after the war ended, India would be given, step by step, responsible self-government. But the Report submitted jointly by Montagu and the Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford in 1918 represented a mountain giving birth to a mouse. A new Government of India Act appeared in 1919, which was rejected as in adequate, unsatisfactory and disappointing by even the middle-of-the-road National Congress.

Whatever infatuation had been bred in the Indian mind, was dispelled by the amendment to the Criminal Procedure Code prepared by Mr. Justice Rowlatt. At this time, British imperialism was giving leadership in Turkey and the Arab world to dastardly conspiracies against the independence of the whole of West Asia. Anger was growing in the whole of Indian Muslim social consciousness. Combined anger burst out against the Rowlatt Bill. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who had retured from South Africa came forward to lead his Satyagrahas in India, and the Indian Khilafat led by Maulana Muhammad Ali and Maulana Shaukat Ali came forward in its leadership.

A *Hartal* of public work stoppage was observed all over India on 6 April, 1919. Many Hindu and

Muslims lost their lives to police bullets in Delhi. Two popular leaders, Dr. Satyapal and Dr. Saifuddin Kichlu were arrested in the Punjab. The Amritsar populace vented their angry protests. So on the 13th April, General Dyer ordered a brutal massacre at Jallianwalabagh. More than a thousand men, women and children were killed or wounded. Martial law was clamped on the Punjab. The English trooops caned men and subjected women to assaults on their modesty. Rabindranath in anguish and insult gave up his British honour—the kinghthood conferred by the Crown, saying that an honour conferred by imperialism stung him like a thorn. Even the normally peaceful Gandhiji wrote in *Young India* that this satanic government cannot be mended, it must be ended.

Gandhiji was elected President of the All-India Khilafat Committee in November, 1919. The proposal for non-violent non-co-operation was practically unanimously accepted at the Nagpur Annual Session of the Congress in December 1920. Having united Congress and the Khilafat movement Gandhiji called on his countrymen to join the non-co-operation movement to gain Swaraj within a year.

An unprecedented mass movement began. The British publicist Valentine Chirol has written that India had reached the threshold of a popular revolution. Hindu – Muslim unity appeared to have entered a new phase. Popular awakening flooded beyond the urban intelligentsia's limits into the rural areas of India. The peasants of Medinipur decided that they would no more pay revenue to their Union Boards. Peasants in South India, in Guntur, in Krishna and Godavari districts embarked on no rent campaigns. A widespread movement for no-rent started in the U.P, In Chotanagpur, many aboriginal tribespeople came together in the Tana Bhagat movement. The movement spread to jute mills, railways, and even to the Assam tea gardens. In Andhra Pradesh, in Madras Presidency, the violent Rampa popular uprising broke out under Alluri Sitaram Raju's leadership. Sitaram Raju was martyred: but he lighted the spark of freedom struggle in peasant consciousness. The Moplah Revolt burst out in far southern Malabar against *zamindar*—users oppression backed by British imperialism. The imperialists subjected the Moplahs to inhuman tortures. Though it was weakened by communal fanaticism, the Moplah Revolt was indubitably a glorious episode in our national struggle.

Both British imperialism and the national leadership came to realize that the far flung rural society of India was the repository of boundless strength and the demand for Swaraj if channalised into united popular disturbance, would shake British rule to its foundations

The villagers of the Chauri Chaura area of Gorakhpur in U.P. unable to put up with repression of governmnet, set fire to a police station, killing 22 policemen. Pleading that the non-violent movement was deviating from its ideal, Gandhiji unilaterally directed that it be called off for the time being 'Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, Motilal Nehru and Lajpat Rai protested against Gandhi's decision. In his *Autobiography,* Jawaharlal has written that the movement was then advancing on all fronts and they were gaining prestige and success, they were angered by the halting of the movement at such a stage. Subhas Chandra Bose has written that when the people's enthusiasm was at the point of an explosion, then Gandhi by directing a retreat had called for a 'national disaster. The young organizers of Communist movement believed that when imperialism failed to crush popular revolt with guns; it had to rely on leaders following the path of compromise like Gandhiji.

In December, 1922, at Gaya Session of the Congress, the President, Deshbandhu C.R.Das proposed a new strategy. Take part in government sponsored elections even if we are in a minority in the Refomed Legislative Assemblies, wreck the farce of the British Reform Act from within. Gandhi's followers did not support the idea. So Chittaranjan, Srinivas Ayyangar, Motilal Nehru and others formed a new party the Swarajya Party. Coming to a pact or eletoral understanding with nationalist Muslims in Bengal, the Swarajya party was victorious. It was able by continual disruption within the Bengal Legislature to make it difficult for the ministerial group composed of British and Indian loyalists to carry on administration.

Meanwhile the seeds of Socialist and Communist movements had began to sprout. M.N. Roy and few Indian revolutionaries established an Indian Communist Party in October 1920 in far off Tashkent. The nationalist Muslim Muhajirin who had left their country, journeyed at the end of the War to Soviet Russia, many were attracted by Communism. When they began to return home, some of them were arrested and in 1922 the British-rulers began the Peshawar Bolshevik Conspiracy case. A South Indian working class leader Singaravelu Chettiar was the first—to proclaim that he was a Communist— at a Congress seseion at Gaya in 1922. Actually in the previous year, in the Ahmedabad Congress of 1921. the demand for complete Independence had been raised by Hasrat Mohani and Swami Kumarananda who were later on to accept the Communist ideology. Even earlier than that, in Bombay in 1920 the united popular organisation of the Indian working class—the All India Trade Union Congress—had been born. Giving his presidential address at Lahore in 1923, the Deshbandhu said : The Swaraj which we are fighting for will be for 98% of the people.

In the meanwhile not only M.N. Roy, but also Abani Mukherjee, Birendranath Chattopadhyaya, Dr. Bhupendranath Dutta, Fazl Elahi Kurban, Dalip Singh Gill and many other revolutionaries resident in foreign lands had accepted the communist ideolgy; they now began to try and spread it in India. Frightened by this, the imperialists arrested the Communist organisers in Calcutta, Bombay and Kanpur and began the Kanpur Bolshevik Conspiracy of 1924. The results of repression often had the reverse of what is expected. Many revolutionary youth were attracted by Communism: in 1925 December in Kanpur meeting the Communist Party of India was set up, with the Bombay cotton mill labour organiser, S.V. Ghate as its Secretary.

The revolutionaries also revived their efforts. A new Hindusthan Republican Army was established: it was later called the Hindusthan Socialist Republican Army. Its leaders were Chandrasekhar Azad and Sardar Bhagat Singh.

In U.P. in 1925, focussing round these revolutionary efforts came the Kakori Conspriracy Case. Four revolutionaries were hanged,Ramprasad Bismil, Roshanlal, Ashfaqulla and Rajen Lahiri. Many revolutionaries were arrested in the Dakshineswar Bomb Case in Bengal.

In the meanwhile, the British Government had announced that for the purpose of initiating fresh reforms, a Commission under the leadership of Sir John Simon was to come to India. The Indian national movement was unanimous in declaring the boycott of the Simon Commission (which was all white), popular discontent again swirled through the whole of India. Wherever the Simon Commission went, there were public work closures, and black flags demonstrations with "Go Back Simon" cries greeting it.

The anti-Simon demonstrations were viciously attacked by the police. In 1928 in Lahore, the veteran nationalist leader Lala Lajpat Rai was fatally injured by police lathis. He died a few days later. Sardar Bhagat Singh and his friends took vengeance for his death by shooting the responsible police officer, Saunders. Bhagat Singh was able to flee underground.

From 1927 strike actions were widespread and sharp all over India.

In Bombay, under the leadership of the Communist-organised Girni Kamgar Union, there was a general strike lasting for a few months in 1928;and violent industrial strikes and tension in the railways and jute mills of Bengal. This brought a new revolutionary force into the forefront of the national movement.

Storm warnings sounded in the Calcutta Session of the Congress in 1928. The question arose — what was the objective of the national movement complete Independence or Dominion Status? Gandhiji and the old guard leaders were in favour of Dominion Status. Subhas Chandra and Jawaharlal, the armed revolutionaries and the Communists were in favour of complete Independence. Gandhiji's proposal was victorious by a small majority. But the very next day, a fiery procession of half a lakh of workers led by Communists and Leftists arrived at the Congress Session to make their support for the complete Independence resolution known. The official historian of the Congress, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya has written that this was the most significant event of the 1928, Calcutta Congress. In January 1929, in a speech to the Central Legislative Assembly, the Viceroy Lord Irwin said that he was concerned at the spread of Communist ideas in India. Seven weeks later on the 20th March as a result of India-wide searches by the Police, thirty one Communists and Left working class leaders were arrested and the historic Meerut Conspiracy case was started. This case lasted for four years and British imperialism made a determined attempt to bring a rift between the nationalist movement and the Communist movement. But this conspiracy was foiled. On the one hand the Communist prisoners used the Court Room dock appropriately to explicate the nature of imperialist exploitation and to spread information about facts and perspectives on popular revolution. On the other hand, the national movement too stood beside the Meerut prisoners. As a result, the Meerut Conspiracy Case helped in creating popularity for Communist ideology, particularly among the revolutionary youth of the country.

Three of the Meerut Conspiracy case accused were English Communists and Leftists. They too firmly stood beside their Indian Comrades and were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment. There were worldwide demands for freeing the Meerut prisoners,from the most honoured scientist of the world Albert Einstein, and the French intellectual Romain Rolland, to the British Trade Union Congress.

The second Lahore Conspiracy case was started in 1929. In defence of the dignity and honour of political detenues Bhagat Singh,Batukeswar Dutt, Jatin Das and other prisoners went on hungerstrike. The Government was ultimately forced to accept the detenues demand for appropriate treatment in prison: but Jatin Das passed away after 63 days hungerstrike. Subhas Chandra Bose brought his body by train from Lahore to Calcutta. Innumerable people thronged the railway station en route stood to pay respect to the body. They must have taken a vow to end imperial servitude.

In this fiery situation in 1929, the resolution for complete Independence was accepted at the Lahore

Congress. On the 26th January 1930, Independence Day was observed all over the country. The pledge for not resting till complete Independence was gained, was taken by unfurling the national flag. From 1930 began the Civil Disobedience Movement for demanding complete Independence. Gandhiji embarked on his Dandi March, with hand-picked volunteers, who would defy the British laws prohibiting common manufacture of salts in India. But, all over the country, women and men in their thousands took part in this *Satyagraha,* determinedly putting up with indescribable tortures and beatings at the hands of the police detailed for stopping salt manufacture.

An unprecedented popular uprising took place in the northwest Frontier Province of India in the land of the Pathans, sparked off by Red-Shirt volunteers, led by the "Frontier Gandhi" Abdul Ghaffar Khan who called for freedom. The frightened British authorities used Garhwali troops to repress urban discontent. The idea of some officials was to start Hindu Muslim tension by using Hindu Garhwali troops to fire at muslim Pathan crowds. At Peshawar of the 23rd April 1930, a British Commander ordered Garhwalis to open fire on a pathan demonstration. A non-commissioned officer, Chandra Singh Garhwali threw down his rifle. Other Garhwalis followed suit. Groups of Pathans embraced the Garhwali troops in joy. A Calcutta newspaper wrote that Peshawar had changed hands. Chandra Singh and others were given savage sentences.

Gandhiji was arrested at the beginning of May 1930. There were widespread protests all over India. Workers in Sholapur where there were many cotton workers and Railway employees spontaneously rose to drive out the English authorities and hoist the flag of freedom. After three or four days many troops were brought from Bombay to drown in blood the unarmed popular uprising of Sholapur. Four leaders of the revolt were hanged. By militantly defeating the strength of imperialist British power and by taking power for however brief a period, the revolutionary working class of Sholapur began a new chapter of the national movement.

A few days before that on India's Eastern frontier, under the leadership of Surya Sen (known affectionately as *Masterda*) some revolutionaries on 18th April, 1930 occupied the Chittagong armoury and the principal Government offices. The British senior officers fled to ships anchored at sea. Declaring Chittagong to be independent, the revolutionaries retreated to the nearby Jalalabad range. There, on the 22nd April, fifty or sixty revolutionaries were attacked by a few hundred English and Gurkha troops. About one hundred troops and twelve revolutionaries lost their lives. Then the revolutionaries came down from the hill under cover of darkness, and went underground. A year later, some revolutionaries under the leadership of the heroic maiden, Pritilata Wadedar attacked the Chittagong European Club at Pahartali. Pritilata embraced martyrdom. All over India in respect and astonishment rose the feeling: fortunate indeed is Chittagong. In the jail of Hijli (where the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur is now housed) English jailors fired on defenceless revolutionary prisoners. In reply, revolutionaries in Medinipur shot down in open daylight, one by one, three successive English magistrates. In the Bengal Government's life centre Writer's Buildings, the revolutionaries by carrying out a daring raid through the corridors could spread terror within the fortress of imperialism.

As the movement grew, the English Government's oppression also over-stepped its own bounds. Official estimates themselves have it that within a year 60,000 volunteers were sentenced to imprisonment. Pattabhi Sitaramayya in his book "History of the National Congress" has written that in 1930-31, only within 10 months, 10,000 men, women and children were imprisoned. But the movement could not be stopped only by order of imprisonment. So indiscriminate lathi-charges, brutal physical torture and firing on unarmed groups followed.The press was censored from printing these news.

But the movement, instead of being crushed began to take on the character of a popular uprising. In England,'The Spectator'wrote that if there had been no troops in Bombay, the Government would have fallen within a day. The British merchants were greatly hurt by the movement to boycott British commodities. In their distress, they joined Indian merchants to demand that there should be a compromise with the Indian national leaders on the basis of Dominion Status.

To curb this popular revolt, a compromise with Gandhiji and the Congress leaders was sought. The national leadership was worried by the tides of popular uprising. Gandhiji criticised the Sholapur revolt and the "indiscipline" of the Garhwali troops in Peshawar. On the 5th May, 1931, the Viceroy Irwin and Gandhiji together signed a truce. Within a fortnight, the foremost revolutionary Bhagat Singh was hanged. In protest there was heard all over India a new slogan "Inquilab Zindabad" The tumultuous youthful society raised the Hindi slogan "What did the youth get ? The hanging of Bhagat Singh". Yet the Karachi Congress accepted the Gandhi-Irwin Pact. Gandhiji arrived in England for the Round Table conference, but had to return empty handed. The movement went on for quite some time more. Then in 1934 the Congress working committee unconditionally withdrew The Civil Disobedience Movement and two months later by a declaration the Government proscribed the Communist Party of India.

According to the Government of India Act of 1935, provincial elections were announced for 1937. Before that in 1936 in the Lucknow Congress' special Session, Jawaharlal Nehru in his presidential address announced that freedom was India's first objective, after which socialism would be necessary for eradicating poverty in the country. The National Congress would also have to join the worldwide movement against Fascism and Imperialism.

The Leftists in the country announced their support for Jawaharlal. They included the recently organised Congress Socialist Party, the followers of M.N. Roy and the Communists. The All India Kisan Sabha and the All-India Students Federation were built up. The Indian national movement made its support known for the imperilled democracy of Spain, and for China, devastated though unvanquished by Japanese attacks. Rabindranath himself was the Chairman of the Committee for the support of Spanish democracy. Jawaharlal Nehru journeyed to the battle fields of Spain to express his solidarity The Marathi Communist, Bal Mukund Huddad fought rifle in hand in the International Brigade. A five member medical mission was sent to succour China: one of its members Dr. Dwarakanath Kotnis accepted martyrdom on Chinese soil.

Congress candidates were elected amidst great enthusiasm in most Provinces in the 1937 election. Hopes were aroused that all detenues would be released. Revolutionary prisoners in the Andaman Islands went on hunger strike on the demand for freedom. There was a large procession of students in Calcutta on the basis of the demand for freeing the prisoners. Rabindranath himself blessed their effort. Only ten percent of the detenues were not released. But the Chittagong rebels, Bhagat Singh's comrades and some others remained in prison.

Subhas Chandra Bose was elected Congress President at Haripura in 1938. At the Tripuri Congress, defeating the Rightist candidate Pattabhi Sitaramayya, and with the support of the combined left, Subhas Chandra was once again elected President. The Right Congress elements forced Subhas out of this position. Subhas Chandra organized a new left grouping, the Forward Bloc. With Subhas' support, the Congress socialists, Royists and Communists built up the Left Consolidation Committee.

At this time came the Second World War. The British Government began large-scale arrests of Communists and Leftists. The Congress lleadership too was not left alone. on 22 June, 1941, Hitler attacked the Soviet Union. On the 7th December, Japan declared war on England and the United States of America. Practically the whole of Europe was then under the heel of Hitlerite Germany. Japan brought South-East Asia under its grip.

In this moment of crisis, the authorities released the Congress leadership from prison. Sir Stafford Cripps was sent by the British Cabinet to carry on discussions in this country. But the Cripps Mission was unsuccessful. Gandhiji rejected the Cripps proposals as "a post-dated cheque on a Crashing bank". On 8th August, 1942 in the All-India Congress Committee meeting, Gandhiji announced his fateful new strategy: "Karenge ya Marenge (we will do or die). British, quit India"

Popular uprisings once again rocked various parts of India for a few months. Work closures and general strikes, uprooting of rail tracks, blowing up many bridges, took place. British authority broke down temporarily in Satara, Ballia, Azamgarh, Darbhanga, Parts of Contai and Tamluk: and popular initiative dreamt of building independent government. Deep roots grew in the popular consciousness that British government could be ended: this created the ground for popular uprising in post-war India.

Hundreds of women children were martyred in the unforgettable "Quit India" popular uprising -- Matangini Hazra, Kanaklata Barua (of Assam), Hemu Kalani (of Sind),, Lakshman Nayak (of Orissa), Srishkumar (of Gujarat), Said Akbar (of the NWFP) and others have become immortal.

Under the leadership of Communist-led peasant discontent in Malabar, four peasants of Kayyur village were arrested. They were hanged by British imperialism in 1943. They went to the gallows with the call "Long live the Revolution" on their lips

In the meanwhile in 1940, the Muslim league passed its Pakistan Resolution. Widespread propaganda was carried out during the War and after it for Pakistan.

In 1941, Subhas Chandra was detained under house arrest He dramatically fled from there to Kabul and then went by a circuitous route to Germany. From there, he was taken to Japan. In October 1943, he formally established the Azad Hind Sarkar (thê national India Government) and organized the Azad Hind Fauj — a militant representation of Hindu-Muslim unity. The fearless armed struggle of the Indian National Army under the direction of Netaji Subhas opened new dimensions in the Indian national movement. Though ultimately defeated in battle, they were able to raise The Indian national flag before Kohima in Nagaland: this did inspire their countrymen.

The war came to an end. Anti-imperialist mass uprisings broke out all over South-East Asia. Unprecedented popular unrest too was felt in India. In Calcutta, on 21 November, 1945, and again on Rashid Ali Day in February, 1946, students, workers and

citizens, Hindus and Muslims jointly called for freeing undertrial I.N.A. officers by a general strike, barricades were raised in the city's streets, and in the industrial suburbs. Many young people were martyred — Rameswar, Salam and many others.

A wave of unrest lapped across the armed forces. The Royal Indian Navy ratings mutinied in Bombay and Karachi. They came into armed conflict with the British authorities The organized working class went on strike in solidarity with the naval mutineers. Three hundred workers and naval mutineers were killed; eminent among them the Communist woman leader, Kamal Dhonde.

Widespread popular movements took place in the rural areas and in the Princely States. A crore of Hindu, Muslim, Harijans, Adivasis and poor peasants raised the struggle for Tebhaga in the Bengal villages. In Travancore, in protests against the government of the reactionary Diwan, the heroes of Punnapra-Vayalar lost their lives in popular revolt. Shaikh Abdulla led the popular movement against the princely authorities in Kashmir. In Hyderabad, the unforgettable armed struggle in Telengana against Nizam's rule started at this time.

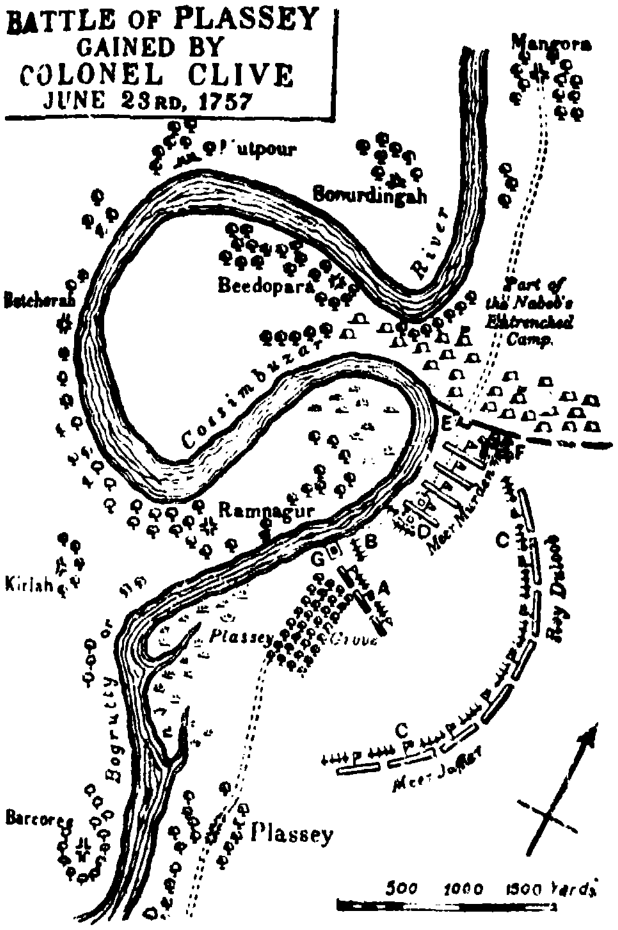
Imperialism rattled at the popular uprising, began to hurriedly close its ranks with the national leaders. A Cabinet Mission arrived with proposals to give India complete independence. But in whose hands could power be transferred--to united India or to a truncated India and to pakistan? Violent dissension broke out over this question. British imperialism stoked communally divisive forces. On the 16th August. 1946, the bloodstained fratricidal conflict which began in Calcutta, reached its fulfilment in the 2nd June MountBatten Declaration about the partition of India.

On the 15th August 1947 came the long-awaited freedom of India. But among all the joy remained the anguish of the operation performed on the motherland, breaking it into two moieties. Yet freedom did come. The sprouts of freedom bloomed in the soil soaked by the blood of thousands of martyrs who had fallen in the century and a half long fight for it. We have presented here an exceptionally abbreviated account of that freedom struggle as it traversed the tracks of a difficult path, rising or falling at times, so that the new and future children of Bengal, and indeed India can make some sense out of the freedom, won by blood, which is gift of their heritage.

The mobilisation of the rival armies on the plains of Plassey (23 June 1757)

Compared to modern wars, the Battle of Plassey was really insignificant. All total-hardly a thousand men were killed. On one side we saw bribery, fraud, deceit and murder, on the other worthlessness, treachery and betrayal of one's own motherland. Hence what took place at Plassey, was mockery of a battle.

Yet, judged by the relentless standard of history, this battle had far-reaching impact, the beginnings of nearly 200 year long British rule over India.



Mobilisation of the rival armies on the plains of Plassey

Nawab Mir Qasim

In 1760, Mir Qasim was installed on the throne of Bengal, by the Britishers themselves, in place of that worthless traitor, Mir Jafar. But Mir Qasim was a strong-willed independent spirited man. The East India Company had been given the right to carry on internal trade in Bengal, without paying any duties. However, when the Company's servants demanded the same privilege for their private trade, Mir Qasim objected.



Nawab Mir Qasim

The clash between the Company and the Nawab led to war. Mir Qasim fought bravely but he was defeated in the battles of Katwa, Udaynala, Monghyr and finally at Buxar in 1764. His allies sued for peace, but Mir Qasim refused to surrender and died a fugitive in 1777.

Clive gets the Sanad of Dewani for Bengal, Bihar and Orissa (1765)

In 1765, Clive as governor of Bengal, obtained the Sanad of Dewani for Bengal, Bihar and Orissa from Emperor Shah Alam II. The East India Company promised to pay the Emperor Rupees 27 lakhs per year



Clive gets the Sanad of Dewani from the Emperor Shah Alam II

and in return they obtained the right to collect the entire revenue from Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. In the same year, the Company obtained all administrative rights from Nazam-dulla, the son of Mir Jafar.

That is so say, the British further consolidated and strengthened the gains of plassey by gaining economic and administrative power.

The great Famine of 1770

"At first, the people took to begging! Then who would give alms? They sold cattle, plough, even land. Then they sold their daughters. Then they sold their wives. Then there were none to buy daughter, son or wife! ....They lived on leaves of trees, grass and roots. The barbarians ate dogs, cats and rats! Many fled away. Those who remained, died by thousands of hunger and disease."

(Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay-Anandamath) "I have already informed you of the terrible famine that engulfed these provinces in 1770 and raged for a whole year. Nearly one-third of the entire population died and agricultural production sharply fell. Yet the nett revenue income in 1771, exceeded that of 1768 (i.e. of the pre-famine bumper crop year: Sir Jadunath Sarkar)"

(Letter of Warren Hastings to the Court of Directors, 3 November, 1772)



The Sanyasi-Fakir rebellion

The Sannyasi-Fakir Rebellion (1760-1800)

Peasants, artisans, the demobilised soldiers of feudal potentates, Paiks and Barkandages, as well as the intelligentia of the age-the Sannyasis and the Fakirs, sometimes separately, sometimes together carried on continuous, sporadic revolts against the British Raj in Bihar, the whole of North Bengal, even upto Dacca and Mymensingh. The British banned Sannyasis and Fakirs from traversing Northern India in small bands. Among the eminent leaders of this rebellion were Bhawani Pathak, Debi Chowdhurani, Majnu Shah, Cherag Shah and others.

The sketch of the Sannyasi rebels is a contemporary one, drawn by the English artist Atkinson.

Rangpur Peasant Rebellion (1783)

"Sibchandra Nandi says: Listen O peasants! You are the King's wealth, his real treasure! Go to Rangpur in your thousands. Attack, destroy, loot, Debi Sinha's home. All the peasants rallied to this clarion call! Thousands rushed towards Rangpur. Armed with sticks, swords and spears young and old they rushed ahead. The peasants came from all over Rangpur. The gentry too came, rather curious. They attacked with brickbats and stones. Debi Sinha's house was be-seiged. Debi escaped through a backdoor, his house a mass of ruin!"



Baba Tilka Majhi

This folk song was composed by Ratiram Das and this gives a vivid picture the peasant rebellion against the oppressive *ijaradar* Debi Sinha, appointed by Goodland, the collector of Rangpur. In January February 1783, this rebellion spread to Rangpur and Dinajpur. Ultimately it was crushed by executing hundreds of rebels. A major feature of this rebellion was a united one by Hindus and Mussalmans. The main leaders of this rebellion were Dirji Narayan, Kena Sarkar, Nuruluddin, Israel Khan.

Baba Tilka Majhi (1784-85)

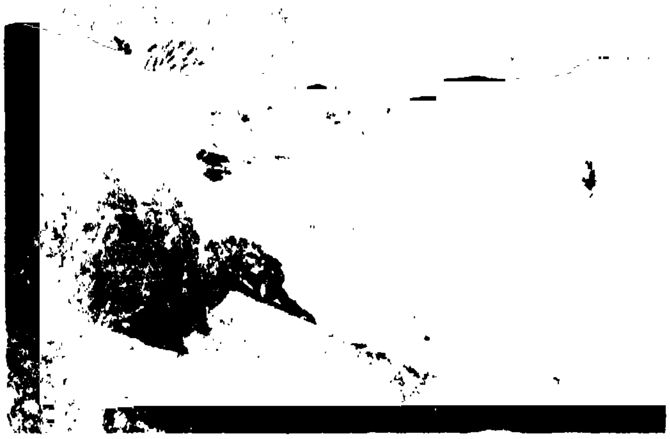
In the borders of Bengal and Bihar, in the Rajmahal area, the tribal Santal people were enjoying their rights in the forests. The British tried to snatch away these rights and the Santals became rebellious. Baba Tilka Majhi was daring rebel leader. His catapault was a deadly weapon and with this he killed no less a person than Cleveland, the collector of Bhagalpur. Then a huge British army surrounded the entire Tilapore forest area in Bhagalpur. For a long period of time, Tilka carried on heroic but unequal struggle. Many Santal rebels were killed and Tilka was caught after being injured. He was tied to the tail of a horse and dragged all the way to Bhagalpur. Then his lacerated body was kept hanging to a banyan tree. This was 1784. This statue of Tilka has been erected in this spot after India became independent.

The Permanent Settlement (1793)

The Permanent Settlement of 1793 declared that all Zemindars, Talukdars and Land lords, shall in perpetuity, give the fixed rent to the Government and this will hold good for their sons and heirs for all time to come. By this Settlement, the British created a loyal class of Zamindars in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa who strengthened the social basis of British rule in India.



The ground where Chuar and Laik Rebels were hanged



Achal Sinha leader of Laik rebels was killed by the English in the bed of Silabati river near the field of 'Gangani'

The Chuar Rebellion of Midnapore and Bankura (1798-99) and the Laik Rebellion of Midnapore (1806-16)

In 1798-99, the massive rebellion that broke out in South-West Bankura and in North-West Midnapore, is known in history as the Chuar Rebellion. The British rulers and some Zemindars of Midnapore insultingly called the tribal and oppressed people of Midnapore, Bankura and Jangal Mahal as chuars. They depended for their existence on the wealth of the forests and cultivated with primitive methods. The collector of Midnapore in a letter to the Board of Revenue wrote: Those who were enjoying the right to this land since the antiquities, when they saw that their land was being taken away from them without any rhyme or reason, or that an excessive amount of revenue was sought to be extracted from them, then they took to arms in defence of their rights. This was no matter of surprise (Letter written on 25 May 1798).

During the Mughal period, law and order was maintained in the villages with the help of Paiks. When they were dismissed from service en masse, they too joined the chuar revolt.

In 1798, nearly 1500 rebels led by Durjan Singh, established their rule in 30 villages of Raipur Pargana. They attacked the headquarters of the Government's seat of power in this area and after a day long bloody battle, they were defeated. But in Salbani, the rebels were victorious and destroyed the army barracks. They burnt all Zemindary documents. A few Zemindars also joined the ranks of the rebels. Ultimately, by means of bloody repression and the usual policy of divide and rule, British were able to crush the Chuar Rebellion.

In 1806, the British confiscated the land of the Laiks of Bogir and at once the Laik Rebellion started. The Laiks were close to the chuars **With the deep Sal forest of Gangani near Garbeta their headquarters and led by the indomitable Achal Sinha**, the Laiks revolted against the Raj. They adopted guerilla tactics.

Ultimately the British destroyed the entire forest by heavy artillery fire. Yet some Laiks, headed by Achal Sinha escaped and repeatedly harried the British. An act of treachery led to the arrest of Achal and he was promptly shot dead. In 1816 the rebellion was finally crushed and some 200 rebels were brutally executed.

flame of resistance against them was kept burning by Tipu Sultan of Mysore. He had somewhat modern outlook and had tried to forge an alliance with Republican France. Ultimately he was killed by the British, while he was heroically defending his capital, Seringapattan. His minor sons were kept imprisoned in Vellore Fort and later on taken to Calcutta.


Tipu Sultan


The heroic Pandyan Kataboman


Tipu's two minor sons were held captive by Lord Cornwallis


Marudu brothers

The Anti-British struggle of Tipu Sultan (1799)

When the British were conquering state after state in India by force, trickery and deceit, then the

The Polygar Revolt (1799-1801)

In the Tinnevelley area of the present day Tamilnadu the Polygars were feudal vassals of the Nawab of Arcot in name, but in reality they were free.

The East India Company interfered with their independence and the Polygar revolt started. The foremost among them was the heroic Pandyam Katabomman, Polygar of Pandalal Kurichi. This popular feudal prince killed Lieutenant Clark in a battle in his own capital Ramnad. In 1798, Major Bannerman led a big army against him, but he escaped. In 1799, after a week's battle, he escaped with his two young brothers. Treachery led to his arrest and he was hanged after mockery of a trial.

But the Polygar revolt did not end there. In 1801, Katabomman's followers raided the jail and rescued his two young brothers. General Agnew started a war of annihilation against them. After long heroic struggle, the two brothers and their commanders were arrested and executed. Many of the Martyrs of the Polygar revolt were peasants in uniform.

The Vellore Revolt (1806)

At two O'clock in the dead of night on 10 July 1806, 1800 Indian Sepoys of the fort of Vellore captured the armoury and attacked 400 English officers and soldiers. Colonel Fancourt, commanding officer of Vellore fort was killed, together with some others. More than half of the English soldiers of the 69th Regiment also perished at the hand of the Sepoys. Official reports say that 9 officers and 100 English soldiers were killed in this revolt. A point to note is that not one English child was kilied nor a single white woman molested.

After capturing the fort, the Sepoys elected Mainuddin, an imprisoned son of Tipu Sultan as their leader. A huge British army marched from Arcot and after bloody skirmish, re-captured the fort. Then they carried out a savage massacre. However Tipu's sons were spared and sent to Calcutta. 800 Indian Sepoys in all were kilied



Vellore Fort

The Enquiry Committee appointed by the authorities at Madras pin-pointed as cause of revolt the orders about uniform and headgear and also the provocative acts of the sons of Tipu. But not everyone on the British side agree to this assessment. High British officials like Craddock and Maitland, the Governor of Ceylon, believed that it was the annexationist policy of Welleseley that led to widespread discontent among the Indians and that was the basic cause of the Vellore revolt. The issue of dress and headgear was a mere pretext. On top of this was the pay of Sepoys and various acts of racial discrimination.



Velu Thampi

The revolt led by Velu Thampi, Dewan of Travancore (1808-09)

When the British spread their tentacles to grab the state of Travancore, the people of that state rose in a determined revolt under the leadership of the Dewan,

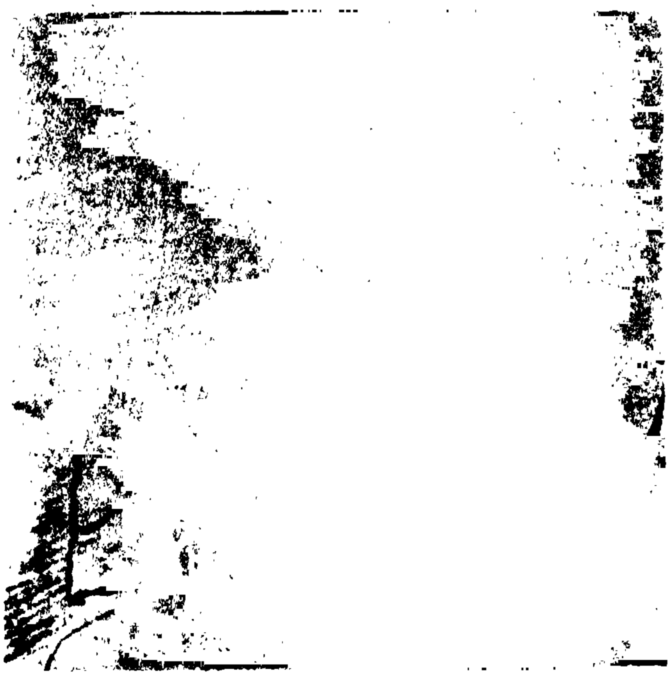
Velu Thampi. It is said, that he sought the help of the resistance was on, Thampi feigned to surrender and taking advantage of the carelessness of the British, tried to kill the British Resident. The attempt failed and Thampi fled to Quilon, where he organized a new army. A long and bitter struggle ensued. After prolonged struggle, a huge British army was able to capture Trivandram. Velu Thampi was injured and took shelter in a nearby jungle. Later on his dead body was recovered there.



Rammohan Roy

Rammohan Roy (1772-1833)

He was the pathfinder of the awakening of the English educated classes in India. He was against idolatory, for monotheism, bitter opponent of all superstitions in Hindu society, campaigner of rational interpretation of the Shastras. Supporter of modern scientific outlook, Rammohan was an internationalist, who had dreamt of regeneration of India in Cooperation with the British and with the help of English education He was also a pioneer in spreading modern education in India.



David Hare

David Hare (1775-1842)

He was the main associate of Rammohan in spreading modern education in India. In 1817, he was one of the co-founders of the Hindoo College and the main organiser of the School Book Society.

The Paik uprising in Orissa (1817-25)

"From time immemorial the Paiks had occupied this land, from where they had now been evicted. Moreover, they now face severe oppression and humiliation at the hands of *jotedars* and official Thikadars. Those who collect revenue - the greedy *Naibs, gomastas* and police officials - carry out inhuman oppression against them". Collector O'Malley.

The princes did not pay any salary to the Paiks, for their livelihood they were granted "Service" lands. When the British overthrew these princes, they took away these 'Service' lands also. Hence in March-April 1817, the ruined Paiks, under the leadership of the ex-general Bakshi *Jagabandhu*, rose in revolt against the East India Company, attacked their Kuthis and *Cutcheries.* This revolt lasted for nearly 9 years, upto 1825. The first Pike onslaught killed a British general and dealt a shattering defeat to the British army.

After this a huge British army captured Puri and imprisoned King Mukundadev, who died in jail. Bakshi Jagabandhu with a large number of Paiks fled to the Jungles and fought back with guerilla tactics. He harried the British for few years, and the rural population of Orissa helped the rebels in every conceivable way. Unable to catch Jagabandhu, the British arrested 20 women of his family and confiscated his entire property. In 1825, the British withdrew all charges against Jagabandhu and he surrendered. He died on 24 January 1829.



Rayanna of Sangoli



Channamma, Rani of Kitoor

Channamma, *Rani* of Kitoor and Rayanna of Sangoli.(1824-1830)

When the British tried to annex the small state of Kitoor in Karnataka, the popular Queen Channamma took to arms and led an Anti-British resistance movement. She was arrested in December 1824 and died in prison on 21 February, 1829.

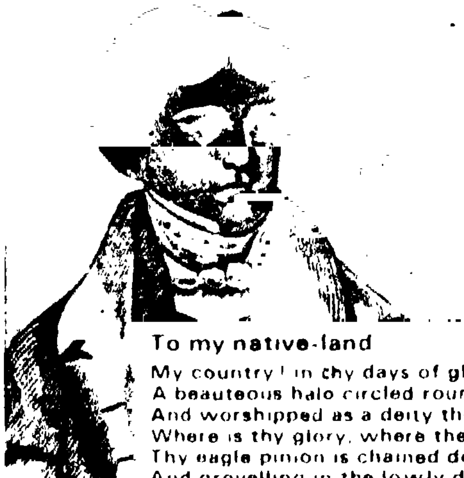
But the resistance went on. Rayanna, a poor *chowkidar* of Sangoli in Kitoor was arrested along with the Queen in 1824. He was let off soon and he promptly renewed the war of resistance. By using methods of partisan warfare, Rayanna destroyed British camps, records, even their forts. He enjoyed enormous mass support. In January 1830, he successfully attacked the town of Sampagao and destroyed all official records. His raids totally disrupted the postal system from Dharwar to Bombay. In April 1830, Rayanna was caught and hanged by the British. After India won freedom, this statue of Rayanna has been set up at Belgaon.

The *Pagal Panthi* revolt in Mymensingh headed by Tipu Garó (1825-27)

"All men are created by God, all are equal, nobody can be subjugated by another"-Such was the simple religion preached by Pagalpanthi Tipu to the Garos. In 1825, large number of followers of Tipu stopped paying rent to the zamindars of Sherpur. Then they captured Sherpur and established a new Garo Kingdom. In many Skirmishes they held the British at bay and kept intact the Garo Kingdom for 2 years. In 1826, a huge British army came to Jamalpur from Rangpur. Tipu was caught and in 1827 the Sessions Judge of Mymensingh sentenced him to life imprisonment. He died in jail in May 1852. His grand son too was in jail with him.

Henry Louis Vivien Derozio (1809-1831)

He was the undisputed leader of the young Bengal movement and a teacher in the Hindoo College. In the spheres of religion, philosophy, education and so on, he preached in favour of the twin gods of reason and liberty. It was he, who first composed a patriotic poem on India, of course, in English.



To my native-land

My country ! in thy days of glory past
A beauteous halo circled round thy brow,
And worshipped as a deity thou wast -
Where is thy glory, where the reverence now ?
Thy eagle pinion is chained down at last,
And grovelling in the lowly dust art thou,
Thy minstrel hath no wreath to weave for [illegible]
Save the sad story of thy misery !
Well let me dive into the depths of time,
And bring from out the ages that have rolled
A few small fragments of these wrecks [illegible]
Which human eye may never more behold,
And let the guerdon of my labour be,
My fallen country ! One kind wish for thee !

Henry Louis Vivian Derozio

[illegible]

Derozio, his poem 'To Motherland" (Original English and Bengali Translation)



Tarachand Chakraborty



Dukshinaranjan Mukhopadhyay

Some eminent representatives of young Bengal

Tarachand Chakravarty (1804-55)— President of the Society for Acquisition of General Knowledge, a competent orator, regular contributor on political subjects in "Bengal spectator".

Dakshinaranjan Mukhopadhyay (1814-1878)

Editor of 'Jnananvesan' and a fearless champion of freedom of the Press. On 8th February,1843 he was reading a paper in meeting of the SAGK, when DL Richardson, principal of the college tried to cut him short, characterising the paper as "Sedition" Tarachand Chakravarty who was chairing the meeting stopped Richardson and compelled him to withdraw his comments. Dakshinaranjan was a member of the British Indian Association. He was a great supporter of women's education and donated a piece of land for the Bethune College.

He also fought against superstition and obscurantism. When his friend and fellow Derozian **Krishnamohan Bandopadhyay** was hounded out of his house for embracing the Christian faith, Dakshinaranjangave him shelter in his own house. His father then drove him out of his home.

Radhanath Sikdar (1813-1870)

A briliant mathematician, in 1832 he took up a job with the Trigonometrical Survey of India. It was he who discovered in 1852, that the highest peak in the world was one in the Himalayas. This was named Mount Everest, after the then Director of the Survey of India.

Like other Derozians, he was for education for women. Together with his dear friend and fellow Derozian Pyari Chand Mitra, he brought out a journal in Bengali called "Masik Patra" whose aims was to discuss various issues in simple Bengali, so that housewives may make sense out of them.



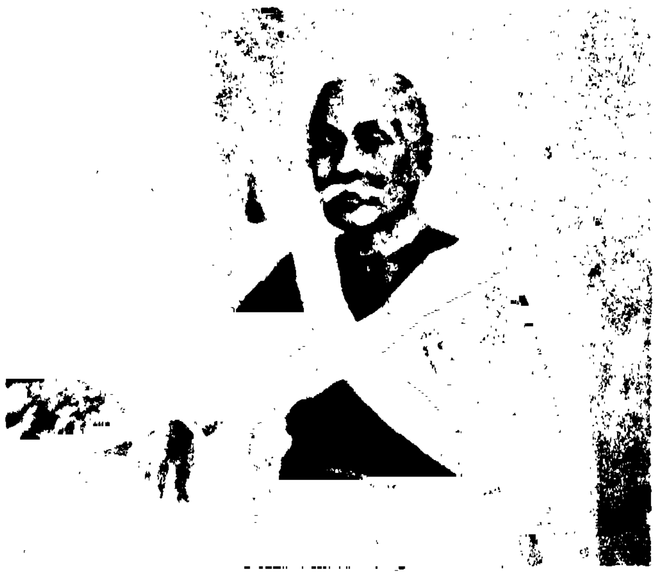
Radhanath Sikdar

The Wahabi uprising led by Titu Mir (1771-1831)

The Wahabi movement originated in far off Arabia and reached India via Syed Ahmed of Barielley. Titu Mir, a resident of Baduria in 24 Parganas, was a recruit of the Wahabi movement. The movement that he led was anti-British and anti-feudal and was punctuated by egalitarian outlook.

Titu Mir established a bamboo fort near Narkelberia, close to Baraset and declared war on the East India Company, the Indigo Planters and Zemindars. At first, many soldiers of the collector was killed and even the collector somehow managed to escape with his life.

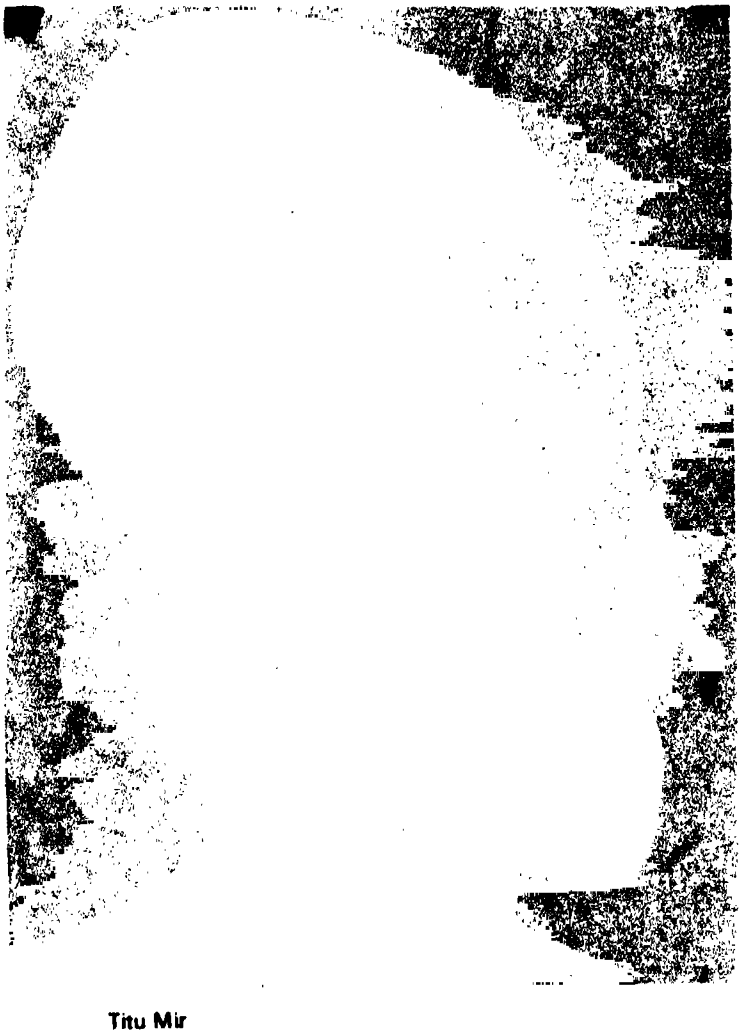
On 14 November 1831, British artillery destroyed the bamboo fort and killed Titu in action. After a long-drawn trial, Golam Rasul, Titu's nephew and second in command was hanged and some 350 others were sentenced to transportation for life.



Pyari Chand Mitra

Radhanath stood up for the rights of oppressed Indian coolies and was was once fined Rs.200/- for a clash with a racist European. But his courageous protest ultimately led to stoppage of physical beating up of coolies by Europeans.

Pyarichand Mitra (1814-1886): Under the penname of Tekchand Thakur, he wrote in 1856, in colloquial Bengali, the first ever Bengali novel, called "Alaler Gharer Dulal". He was also a secretary of the SAGK, used to write regularly in "Hindoo Patriot" and "Calcutta Review". In one such article in Calcutta Review, he made scathing criticism of the Permanent Settlement.



Titu Mir

The Kol uprising (1831-32)

"These forest-tribals showed remarkable courage and daring. In the open field, they faced our army with only hatchets in their hand–comment of Major Rafsedge, political agent of Singhbhum.

In reality, only when the British conquered Singhbhum, that the tribal people of entire Chhota Nagpur-Kol, Munda, Ho etc. rose in rebellion. In 1831, the rebellion rapidly spread to Ranchi, Hazaribag, Palamau and Manbhum. A graphic record of this rebellion has been recorded in Hunter's Annals of Rural Bengal.

Sir John Shore was of the opinion that nearly 5000 square mile territory had to be devastated by the British, in order to crush the Kol uprising.



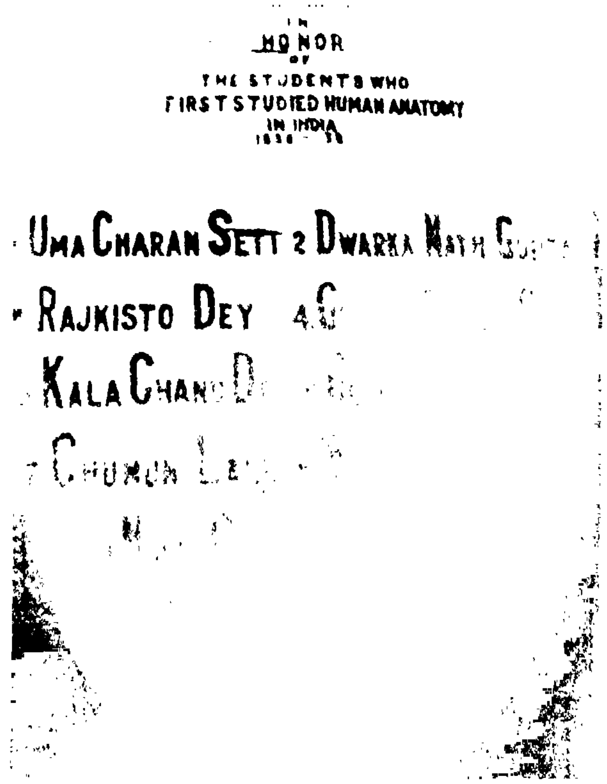
Madhusudan Gupta

Pandit Madhusudan Gupta (10 January 1836)

The Calcutta Medical College was established on 28 January 1835. At first it had no library, equipment or even hospital. Two skeletons and some anatomical apparatus was purchased from England through the Bathgate Company. But these were not the only problems. There were strong superstitions in the Indian mind against study of anatomy and physiology. At first Doctor Bramal and Goodive used human figures drawn by artists. But after 6 months, one day a deadbody was placed on the table for study by the students.

On 10 January 1836, Pandit Madhusudan Gupta took 4 determined students–Umacharan Seth, Dwarkanath Gupta, Rajkishore De and one more–secretly to a house close to the Medical College, together with Dr.Goodive and conducted an autopsy with his own hands. In the history of modern science in India, this day became memorable, because superstition and obscurantism was given the go by and the path was blazed for the advance of modern scientific knowledge.

Liberation does not mean only freedom from alien rule, it also means emancipation from the shackles of blind faith. For our aim was to replace British colonial rule by an independant, modern, democratic social order.



Names of Madhusudan's Colleagues

The Farazi Movement (1838-48)–
Shariatullah and Dudu Mian

"Land belongs to Allah. Hence it cannot be owned privately or in a hereditary manner. Nor can rent be extorted from the same."

Proclamation of Dudu Mian.

In Faridpur, a poor but saintly Muslim called Shariatullah preached a simple egalitarian doctrine that all land, all wealth should be equally enjoyed by the common folk. His son, Mohosin, came to be known as Dudu Mian and he preached resistance to British rulers, Indigo Planters and Zemindars.

A large number of poor peasants and artisans, not only Muslims, but also Hindus, rallied to Dudu Mian's banner. From Faridpur, his Farazi movement spread to Dacca, Khulna and 24 Parganas. His band of volunteers heroically fought with the armed merceneries of Indigo Planters and Zemindars. For this, Dudu Mian was repeatedly arrested, the last time in 1856. But nobody agreed to give evidence against him. Dudu Mian died on 24 September 1860.



Field of Bhagnadihi

The Santal uprising (1855-56)

On 30 June 1855, in the village of Bhagnadihi in Santal Parganas, in a massive rally of Santals (over 10 thousands), led by Sidho and Kanu, an oath was taken to end the oppressive rule of the Britishers, Zemindars, moneylenders etc. and to set up an independent Santal raj, why did this happen? Because Zemindars, their henchmen, police etc. all combined to exploit the Santals, forcibly seize their property, insult them and physically assault them. The interest charged on loan varied from 50 to 500 percent. Merchants flocked inside Santal area, forcibly seized the crops, in the name of loan repayment. In these malpractices, the merchants were aided by the police. In fact, the police were the real ruler of the area.

From the aforementioned rally at Bhagnadihi, it was announced that in this Santal uprising, the artisans-potters, blacksmith, oil-pressers, cobblers and weavers-were allies of the Santals. On that very day a huge Santal army started marching towards Calcutta. Many oppressive moneylenders and police officials were killed by them.

In July, they killed the notorious oppressive police officer called Mahesh and declared that the aim of their rebellion was to overthrow the rule of the East India Company.

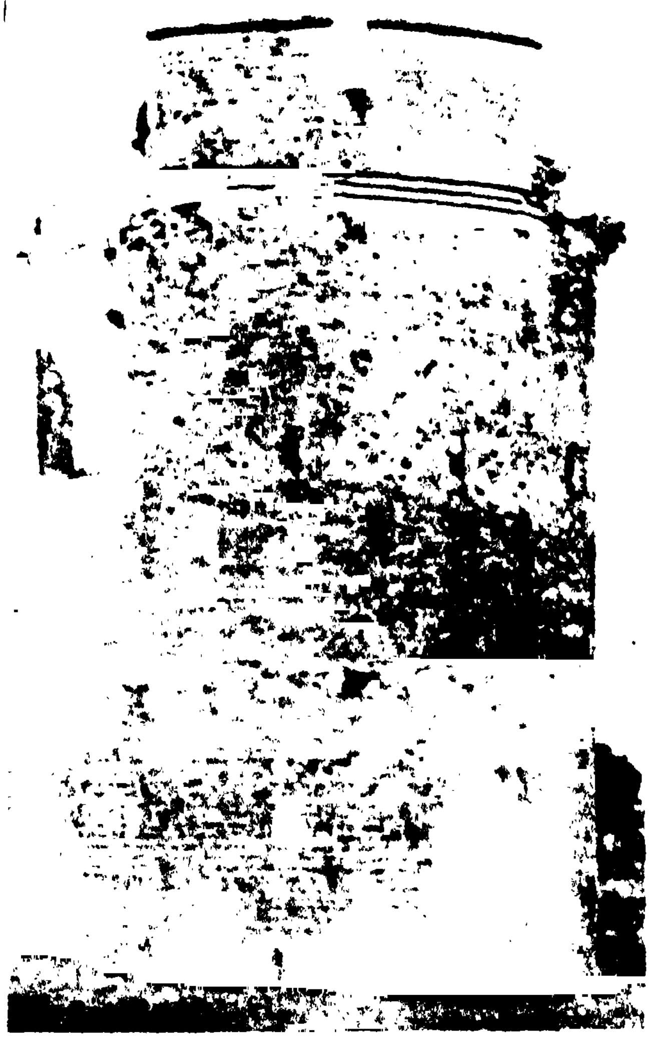


Leader of Santal uprising, Sidho (Picture drawn by Contemporary English Artist)

Major Burrows tried to stop the Santal march with a big posse of infantrymen and some elephants, but was defeated after 5 hours of bloody battle. He fled, leaving the dead behind . Many more moneylenders and oppressive officials were killed after this. The rebels beseiged the fortress at Pakur where the retreating English had taken shelter. But on 12 July 1855, Sidho and Kanu captured the Pakur palace with their Santal army and marched towards Murshidabad. Half of the district of Birbhum saw a veritable collapse of British rule, at the peak point of the rebellion. From Birbhum to Bhagalpur in Bihar British power was totally disrupted.



In search of rebels, riding on elephant



The English soldiers defeated by Santals took refuge in this Fort of Pakur

On November 1855, the British government handed over the entire area from Murshidabad and Birbhum to Bhagalpur in Bihar, to the Army by proclaiming martial law. What happened after this was graphically described by Hunter in his "Annals of Rural Bengal". He wrote that what we fought was not a war. The Santal did not know the meaning of surrendar. So long as their drum went on beating, they went on fighting to the last man. There was not a single sepoy in the British army, who did not feel ashamed for this courage. (PP 247-48)

Except for the Great Revolt of 1857-58 so many people were not killed in any other mass revolt. Natarajan has shown that there were 30 to 50 thousand rebels in the Santal ranks. Among them, the British killed 15 to 25 thousands rebels.



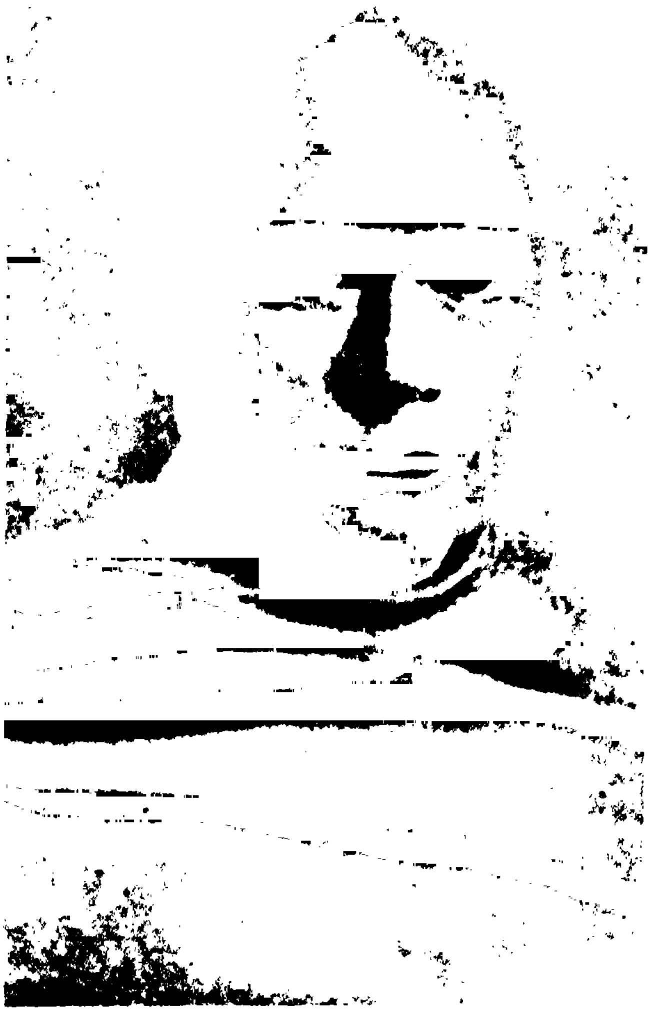
Captive Santal rebels are taken to Jangipur

The freedom struggle in Punjab led by Bhai Maharaj Singh (1847-49)

After the defeat of the Sikhs in the first Anglo-Sikh war in 1845–46 British domination in the Punjab started. Then the defeated Sikhs were rallied in an anti-British revolt by a saintly warrior Bhai Maharaj Singh. He mobilised Dewani Mulraj, governor of Multan, Sardar Bhatar Singh Ariotoala, governor of Halara as well as the Rajput chiefs of the Hill areas, into an anti-British coalition.

The ensuing war proved that the saintly person was also a military genius. He adopted the tactics of rapid mobile warfare and the British were unable to capture him. Despite threats of retaliation and repression, the common people of the land continued to give support to the revolt and new volunteers poured into his rebel army. The British tried to rouse Muslim communalism against his revolt but the wise Bhai Maharaj Singh ably countered it by seeking the cooperation of the Pathans of the North-West frontier as well as the Amir of Afganistan.

After 2 long years of relentless struggle, Bhai Maharaj Singh was captured by the British. He was given not even the mockery of a trial and was swiftly dispatched to a prison in far-off Singapore. It was there that he passed away on 5 July 1856.



Iswarchandra Vidyasagar



Bhai Maharaj Singh

Iswarchandra Vidyasagar (1820-1891)

Iswarchandra considered widow remarriage to be his noblest achievement. His untiring efforts led to the passage of the widow re-marriage Act on 16 July 1856 and under his personal initiative the first widow re-marriage took place on 7 December 1856. He was also bitterly opposed to both polygamy and child marriage.

Apart from this, he was a pioneer in spreading modern education in this country, especially among women. As Tagore put it: it was Vidyasagar who put the Bengali language on granite foundations.

Vidyasagar was also famous for his piety. But his way of life was not to shed tears, but to resolutely fight against all forms of oppression and injustice. In the words of Tagore again: "It was neither piety nor learning that was the main hall-mark of Vidyasagar, it was his indomitable manhood!"



Mangal Pandey

Mangal Pandey-the martyr Sepoy of Barrackpore.

On 29 March, 1857 Mangal Pandey, young sepoy in the 34th native infantry posted at Barrackpore, sounded the tocsin of revolt to his fellow Sepoys. At once Sergeant -major Hewson and adjutant lieutenant Bogue rushed to arrest him. Both were injured but they managed to injure Mangal Pandey rather seriously. On 6 April 1857, he was tried before a military court and sentenced to death. At dawn on 8 April he was executed. 2 months later the great revolt of 1857 started.

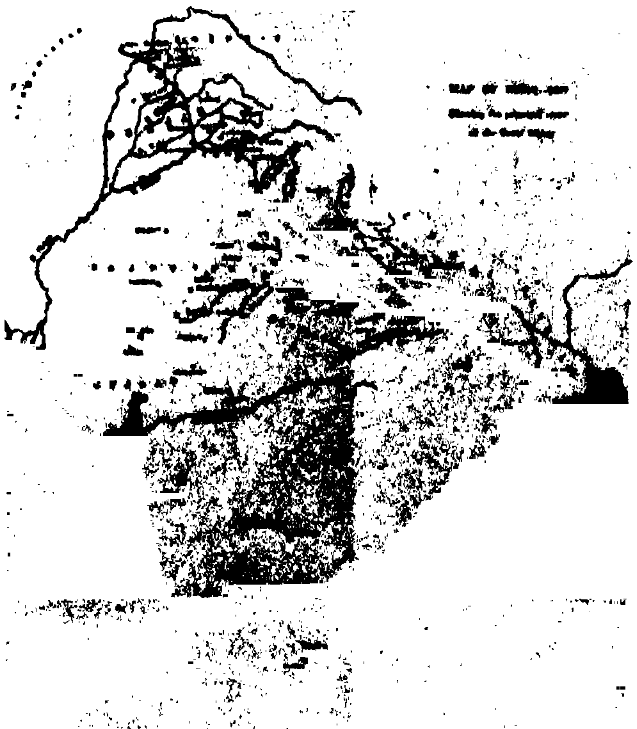


Native infantry being disarmed at Barrackpore

The Revolt of 1857-58

What was called the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857, was characterised even at that time by Karl Marx as a "National Revolt of Hindus and Muslims". While he denounced the worthlessness of feudal princes like Sindhia of Gwalior, he paid a deep homeage to the heroic role of the common people of Awadh.

The aged Emperor Bhadur Shah Zafar on the whole was the symbol of the leadership of the great Revolt. However, after the Revolt was crushed and the



Map of Great Revolt of 1857



Red Fort, centre of rebellion in Delhi



Fighting between British force and rebellious cavarly at the outskrits of Kanpur

Emperor was banished to Rangoon as a prisoner (he died there in detention), he was asked to plead for mercy from the British. Refusing to do it he courageously retorted:

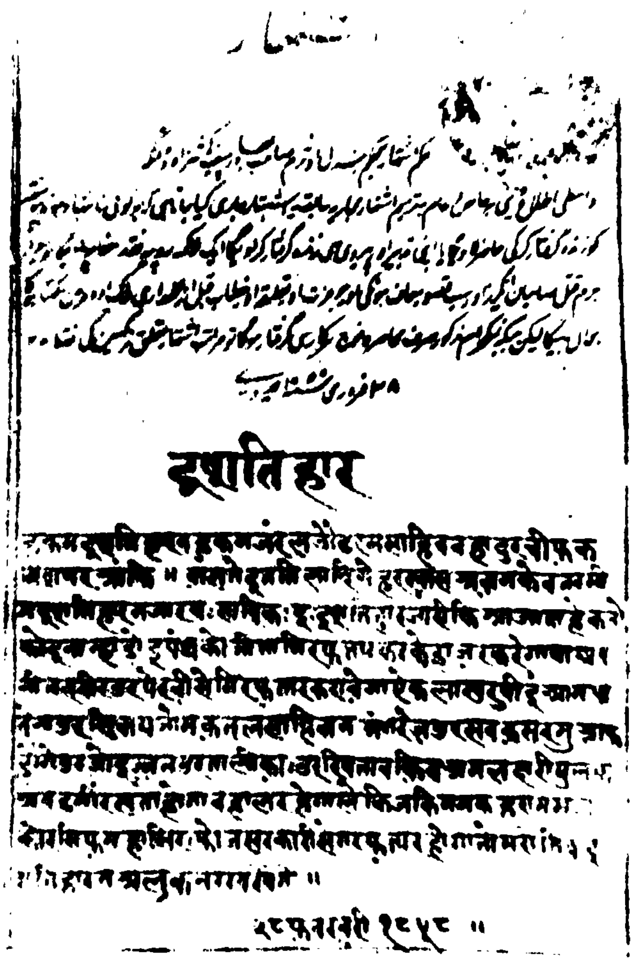
"Gozio Me bu Rahegi Jab Talak iman ki Tab to London tok Chalegi teg Hindustan ki " (The power of India will one day shake London if the gloiy of selfrespect remain undimmed in the hearts of the rebels).

'Ghalib's anguished poem after having witnessed British atrocities committed at Delhi while crushing the rebellion.

'Nana Saheb was one of the main leaders of the revolt. The British government published a poster in Hindi and Urdu declaring rupees one lakh reward for arresting Nana Saheb, dead or alive. After the defeat of the revolt Nana Saheb took shelter in Nepal, where he died.



Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar



इश्तिहार

Leaflet declaring reward for arresting Nana Saheb (in Hindi and Urdu)



Laxmi Bai, Rani of Jhansi

Laxmi Bai, Rani of Jhansi fought valiantly against the British and was killed in action.

Tantia Topi, the greatest amongst the rebel commanders, in imprisoned state. He was hanged by the British. Jwala Prasad, Commander of Nana Saheb's army was also hanged

-Maulavi Ahmedullah, better known as "Maulavi of Fyzabad" was a courageous leader, capable organiser and brilliant commander. A treacherous Raja killed him and then obtained rupees fifty thousand as reward from a Magistrate by handing over to him the blood stained head of Maulavi.

In Bihar the rebel *Jagirdar* of Jagadishpur Kunwar Singh after being seriously injured in a clash with the British army breathed his last. Over two hundred rebel leaders and sepoys were hanged after the defeat of the rebellion in Singbhum and Chotanagpur.

Rao Tularam, rebel jagirdar of Hariyana, together with three comrades secretly started for Russia, Iran & Afganisthan to secure arms and money. The long arduous journey broke his health and on 8 September, 1862 he died at Kabul. The Afgan government gave him a state funeral. There is a memorial column in his honour at Kabul.

Surendra Sain (1809-84) led a revolt against the Britisn in Sambalpur (Orissa) in 1840. He was imprisoned for life. In 1857 the rebels liberated him and he promptly started guerilla war against the British. After the defeat of the revolt he evaded arrest until 1961, he was arrested and sentenced for life again. He became blind in jail and died there on 28 February, 1884. His two brothers also died in jail.

In Assam, Maniram Dewan and Piali Barua were hanged on a charge of being involved in the Revolt of 1857.

While the British imperialist army brutally massacred thousands of Indian men, women and children in 1857-58, the great Chartist leader of the English working class Ernst Jones saluted the revolt and wrote a long poem called "Revolt of Hindusthan".

—On 5 September, 1857 "Illustrierte Zeitung" in Germany printed sharp article condemning British atrocities.

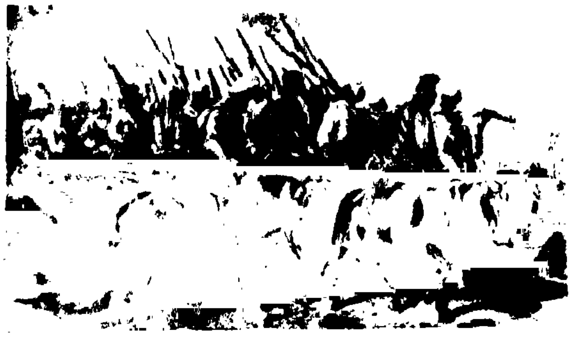
—In Russia Chernyshevsky Dobrolyubov & other eminent intellectuals condemned British atrocities in crushing the revolt.



Tantia Topi held in captivity



Kunwar Singh, rebellion leader of Jagadishpur



Crack troops of Tantia Topi



Rao Tularam, rebellion leader of Haryana



Surendra Sain, rebellion leader of Orissa



Jawalaprosad, Commander-in-Chief of Nana Saheb's army held captive



Rebels were hanged in public thoroughfare in Delhi



Bahadur Shah imprisoned by the English



Poem of Mirza Galib, resident of Delhi

Shocked by the atrocities committed by the British, While crushing the rebellion, Mirza Ghalib wrote :
"In front of me, I see today rivers of blood"



غازیوں میں بو رہے گی جب تلک ایمان کی
تب تو لندن تک چلے گی تیغ ہندستان کی
بہادر شاہ ظفر

গাজিও মেঁ বু রহেগি যব তলক ইমান কি
তব তো লণ্ডন তক চলেগি তেগ হিন্দুস্থান কি ॥
।আত্মসম্মানের সৌরভ যতদিন যোদ্ধাদের হৃদয়ে অক্ষুণ্ণ
থাকবে ততদিন আশা ভারতের দাপট একদিন না
একদিন পৌঁছবে লণ্ডনে।

Flaming poem of Bahadur Shah Zafar, held captive in Rangoon



Justice of the British, a cartoon in 'Punch magazine

THE REVOLT

OF

HINDOSTAN;

OR,

THE NEW WORLD,

A POEM,

BY

ERNEST JONES,

AUTHOR OF "THE BATTLE DAY," "THE EMPEROR'S VIGIL," &c., &c.

"I saw a new Heaven and a new Earth."—Rev. xxi., 1.

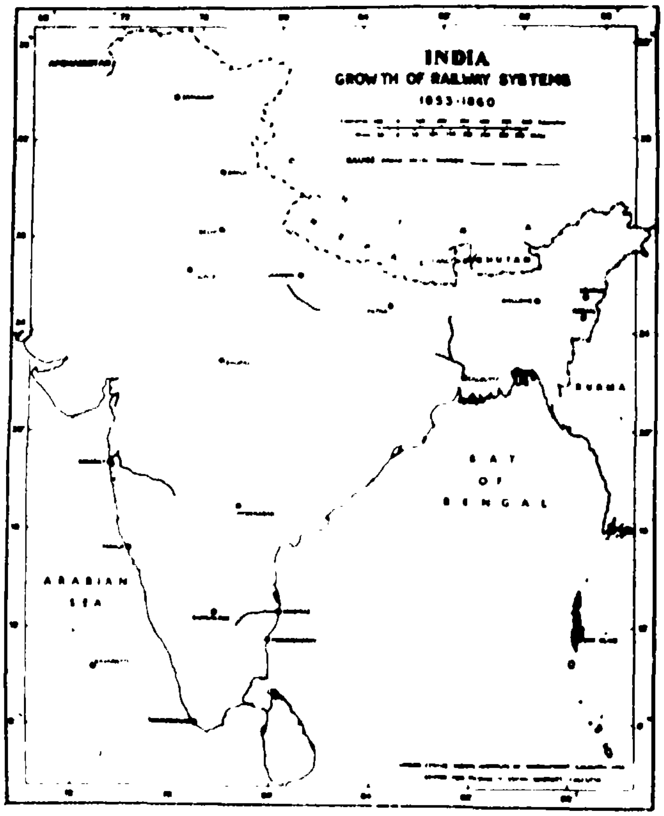
LONDON
EFFINGHAM WILSON, ROYAL EXCHANGE.
1857

Ernest Jones, chartist leader saluted the revolt

Н.А.ДОБРОЛЮБОВ	**Н.А.ДОБРОЛЮБОВ**
СОБРАНИЕ СОЧИНЕНИЙ	СОБРАНИЕ СОЧИНЕНИЙ
В ДЕВЯТИ ТОМАХ	ТОМ ВТОРОЙ
Под общей редакцией	СТАТЬИ И РЕЦЕНЗИИ
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ ИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВО ХУДОЖЕСТВЕННОЙ ЛИТЕРАТУРЫ	ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ ИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВО ХУДОЖЕСТВЕННОЙ ЛИТЕРАТУРЫ

Debroleubov, the eminent Russian intellectual condemn atrocities in crushing the revolt

Growth of Railways



In 1853-54 the first railway lines were laid in India from Thane to Bombay and from Raniganj to Calcutta. Side by side the first modern industries were set up in India leading to the birth of the working class.



Karl Marx refers to the Railway and Industrialisation in India

Rise of Industries and of working class in India

Coal

Establishment of Bengal Coal Company 184[illegible]
Coal Mines start working in Bihar 19[illegible]
Strength of Coal Miners
18[illegible]0 [illegible]9773
1903 74538

Tea Garden

Assam (British) Tea Company formed [illegible]
Strength of Tea Garden workers
1890 406039
1900 664897

Jute Mills

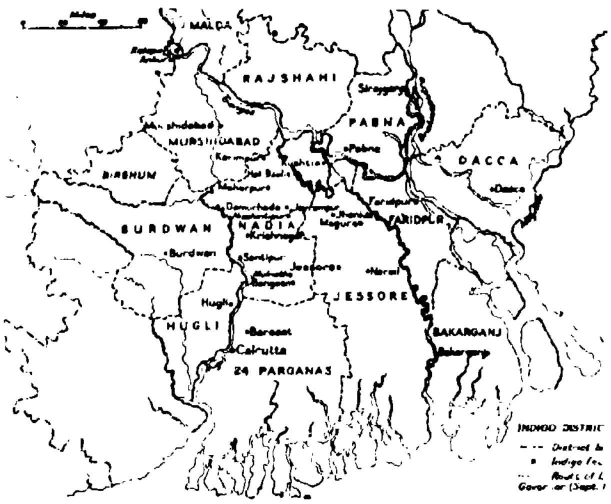
Pishra Auckland Jute Mill founded [illegible]
Strength of Jute Workers
1879-80 274[illegible]4
1902-03 1[illegible]8 904

Textile Mills

Strength of Textile workers
1886 [illegible]4 000 58 Mills
1905 1 95 000 [illegible]5 Mills

Industrialisation in India and origin of working class (table)

The Indigo Revolt in Bengal (1859-62).



Area of indigo revolt

The extent of the indigo revolt.

Aukshoy Kumar Dutta's article in Tatyabodnini Patrika against the oppression by indigo planters.

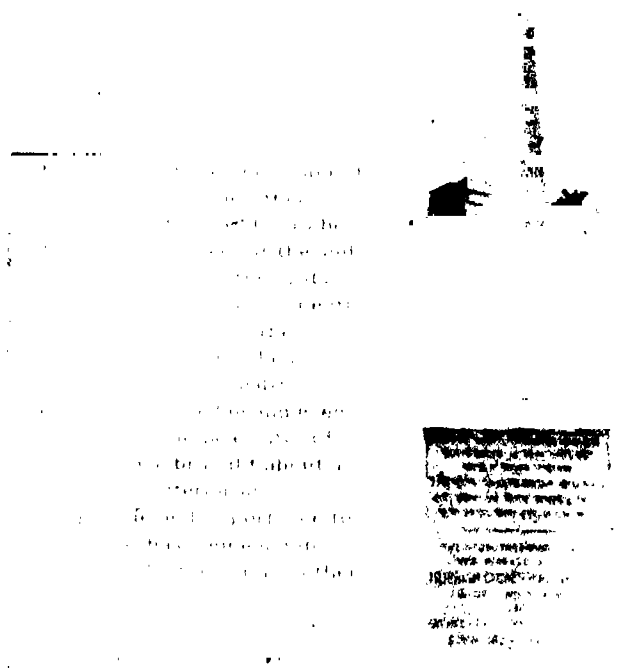
Harish Chandra Mukherjee's article in Hindu Patriot relating to the Indigo's Movement. Harish Chandra (famous journalist) not only courageously supported the indigo peasants but also became ruined fighting cases against the Planters.

- Dinabandhu Mitra, the dramatist wrote **Nildarpan.**

Reverend James Long, who published the English edition of Nildarpan. For this he was both fined and convicted. The fine was paid in the court by Kaliprasanna Singha.

In the autumn of 1859 a mass movement of the peasantry against the indigo planters took place in widespread area of Bengal. This is known in history as the indigo revolt. The planters compelled the peasants to cultivate indigo, then to sell it at a very cheap rate to the planters and if they refused then they were brutally tortured. Even women were not spared. That is why the war cry of the indigo revolt was: if needed we will give our lives but we shall not cultivate indigo. A section of the educated middle class stood by the indigo peasants.

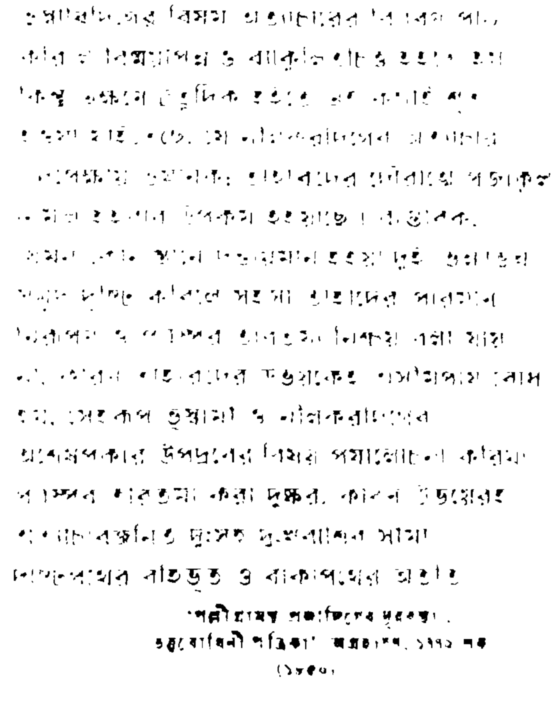




Courage of indigo peasants, praised by Harish Chandra Mukherjee in 'Hindu Patriot'. His memorial and residence



Dinabandhu Mitra



Akshoy Kumar Dutta's article in 'Tatyabodhini' journal against oppression of indigo planters



Reverend Long

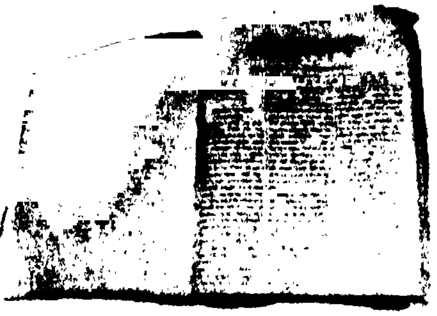
JUNE 6, 1864.]

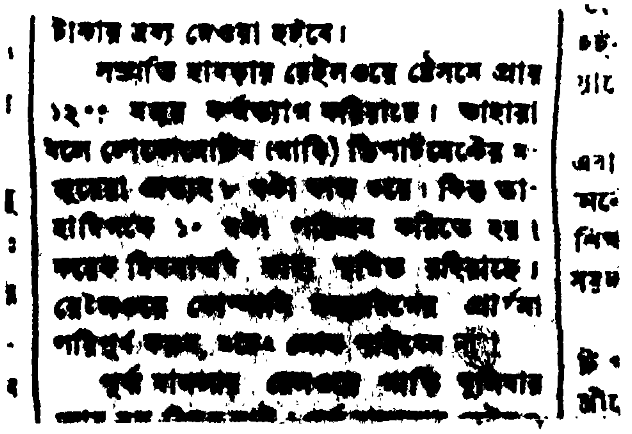
THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

It is interesting to know what a world-wide notoriety the story of the *Nil Durpun* case attained at the time—how an event occurring in a Court of Judicature in Bengal created a sensation that was felt even by foreigners in distant kingdoms. The story had made its way, and the Missionary was not a little struck to find himself preceded by an account of the event. We quote his own words on the subject: "I was surprised to find that the *Nil Durpun* case was known to many in St. Petersburgh, and I was asked about it in various quarters. Full information about it had been given in the German Missionary periodicals, which had inserted the whole proceedings at full length. I saw one of them at St. Petersburgh which devoted forty octavo pages to the subject. I was asked lately to the house of a Russian gentleman, member of the Council of State: he invited to meet me some of the leading Russian nobles, who had been appointed by the Emperor to frame the laws for serf emancipation. We had a long and interesting conversation on the comparative state of the peasants in India and Russia. I was surprised, at the end of it, to have a question put to me by one of these gentlemen, who said, 'were you not imprisoned for taking the part of the peasants in Bengal?' I was obliged, then, to give an account of the *Nil Durpun* case. When I had finished, they said the condition of the Bengal peasants was in various cases almost as bad as that of the Russian serfs."

We cannot conclude this article without reiterating the opinion expressed by Mr. Long: "As the head of the Sclavonic race, and a great semi-oriental empire, Russia holds an important position as a bridge between Europe and Asia. Her struggles in the cause of moral and social reform deserve the sympathies of the friends of religion in England, and, above all, of the friends of the ryot in India, who see in Russia the advocate of the principle of a peasant proprietary, which is beginning to operate now so much in the promotion of education and Bible circulation."

Reverend Long's article in "Hindu Patriot" about Russian







Dwarka Nath Vidyabhusan His article in 'Someprakash' about the rail workers strike (1862)

Rail Workers Strike (1862)

In 1862, 1200 railway workers went on strike in Howrah Station, demanding 8 hour working day **Somprakash** published this news and wrote in support of the strikers.

-The editor of SomprakashDwarkanath Vidyabhusan (1819-86)

বঙ্গভাষা

হে বঙ্গ, ভাণ্ডারে তব বিবিধ রতন;—
তা সবে, (অবোধ আমি!) অবহেলা করি,
পর-ধন-লোভে মত্ত, করিনু ভ্রমণ
পরদেশে, ভিক্ষাবৃত্তি কুক্ষণে আচরি।
কাটাইনু বহুদিন সুখ পরিহরি।
অনিদ্রায়, নিরাহারে সঁপি কায়, মন,
মজিনু বিফল তপে অবরেণ্যে বরি;—
কেলিনু শৈবালে; ভুলি কমল-কানন!
স্বপ্নে তব কুললক্ষ্মী কয়ে দিলা পরে,—
"ওরে বাছা, মাতৃকোষে রতনের রাজি,
এ ভিখারী-দশা তবে কেন তোর আজি?
যা ফিরি, অজ্ঞান তুই, যা রে ফিরি ঘরে!"
পালিলাম আজ্ঞা সুখে; পাইলাম কালে
মাতৃভাষারূপে খনি, পূর্ণ মণিজালে॥



Michael Madhusudan Dutt and his famous sonnet 'Banga Bhasa'

Michael Madhusudan Dutt. (1824-73)

The main poet and dramatist in Bengali during the period of Renaissance. Patriotism and modernism were the hallmarks of his literature. While in Europe, in 1865 he composed the famous Sonnet **Banga bhasa.** Before this he composed the famous **Megnad Badh Kavya.**

great discontent exists amongst the people, and the British Government is thoroughly disliked. The taxation is excessive and the revenues are swallowed up in maintaining a costly system of officialism. As in other places the extravagancies of the ruling class contrast in a painful manner with the wretched condition of the workers whose labour creates the wealth thus squandered. The principles of the International would bring the mass of the people into its organisation if a section was started.

An extract from a letter sent from Calcutta to the First international which was discussed at a meeting of its General Council held on August 15, 1871.

['জনসাধারণের মধ্যে প্রবল অসন্তোষ এবং ব্রিটিশ সরকারকে সকলেরই পুরোদস্তুর অপছন্দ। করভার অতিরিক্ত আর রাজস্বের কড়ি খেয়ে যায় এক ব্যয়সাপেক্ষ আমলাবাহিনী পুষতে। অন্যান্য স্থানের মতো এখানেও শাসক শ্রেণীর বিলাস অপচয়ের সঙ্গে শ্রমিকদের দুর্দশার বৈপরীত্য খুবই মর্মান্তিক — সেই শ্রমিক যাদের মেহনতেই সৃষ্টি হয় ঐ অপব্যয়িত সম্পদের। এখানে শাখা খোলা হলে 'আন্তর্জাতিকের' নীতি জনসাধারণকে আকৃষ্ট করবে সংগঠনের ভিতরে।']

১৫ই আগস্ট, ১৮৭১ তারিখে 'প্রথম আন্তর্জাতিকের' সাধারণ সংসদের সভায় আলোচিত কলকাতা থেকে প্রেরিত একটি চিঠি থেকে।

Letter of a Calcutta citizen to 'First International'

The correspondence between the First International and Citizens of Calcutta (1871)

In 1871 an unknown citizen of Calcutta wrote to the first International in London seeking this permission to open a branch here. The letter was considered on 15 August 1871 in a meeting of the General Council of the International.

A part of the reply that the International sent to the writer of the letter.

'The Secretary was instructed to write and advise the establishment of a branch, but he is to inform the writer that it must be self-supporting. He was also to urge the necessity of enrolling natives in the Association.'

—From the minutes of the meeting of the General Council of the First International held on August 15, 1871.

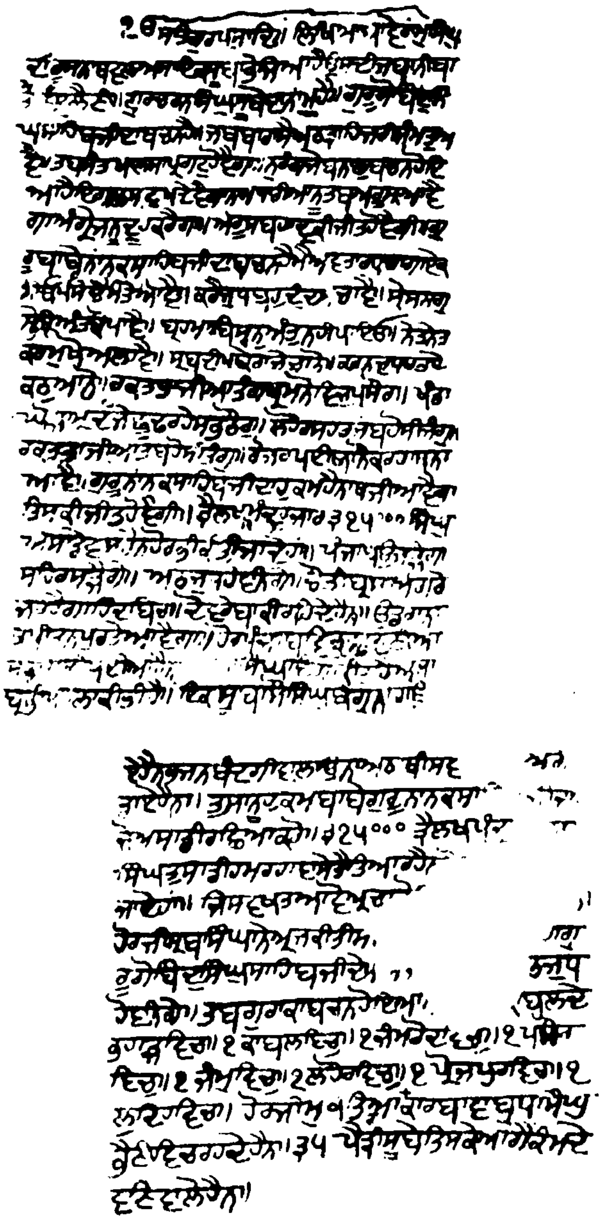
['সম্পাদককে নির্দেশ দেওয়া হল যে শাখা খোলার পরামর্শ দিয়ে লিখতে, তবে তাঁকে বলা হল লেখককে জানাতে যে ঐ শাখাকে স্বনির্ভর হতে হবে। সমিতিতে স্থানীয় অধিবাসীদের অন্তর্ভুক্ত করার প্রয়োজনীয়তার উপর জোর দিতেও তাঁকে বলা হল।']

প্রথম আন্তর্জাতিকের সাধারণ সংসদের ১৫ই আগস্ট, ১৮৭১ তারিখের সভার কার্যবিবরণী থেকে

Reply of 'First International'

The Kuka Rebellion in Punjab (1866-72)

The preparation for the Kuka rebellion started right after 1857 and it continued even after 1872. But the peak of this rebellion was reached between 1866 and 1872. Guru Ram Singh was its mentor and he roused the followers of the Kuka rebellion with a sense of great self confidence. They preached non-cooperation with the foreign ruler, built up alternative administrative machinery and planned an armed rebellion.



Ram Singh's letter seeking Russian help for money and arms



Guru Ram Singh



Gurucharan Singh, envoy of Ram singh, in Tashkhand

Guru Ram Singh (1815-1885), leader of the Kuka rebellion.

Gurucharan Singh, bearer of letter from Guru Ram Singh seeking Russian help arrives in Tashkhand.

—Two Kuka martyrs-Lehna Singh & Hira Singh.

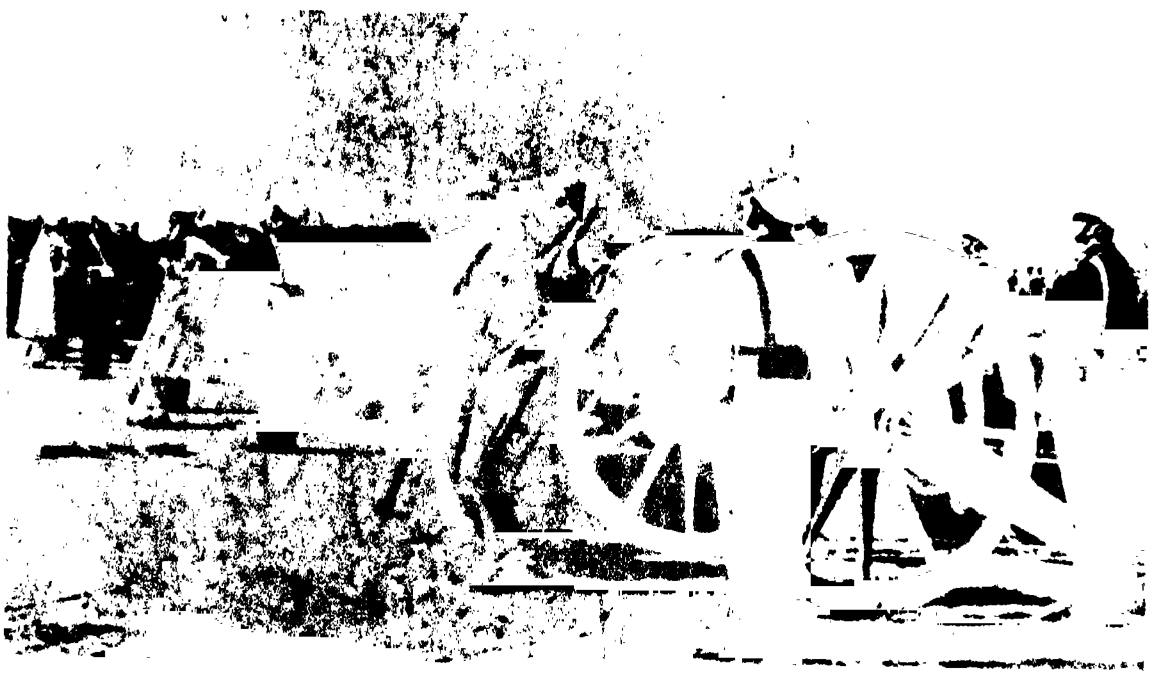
The British blew up Kuka rebels by tying them in front of Cannons. They called this brutal murder 'mercy killing' (Picture painted by Russian traveller and artist-Verschagin).



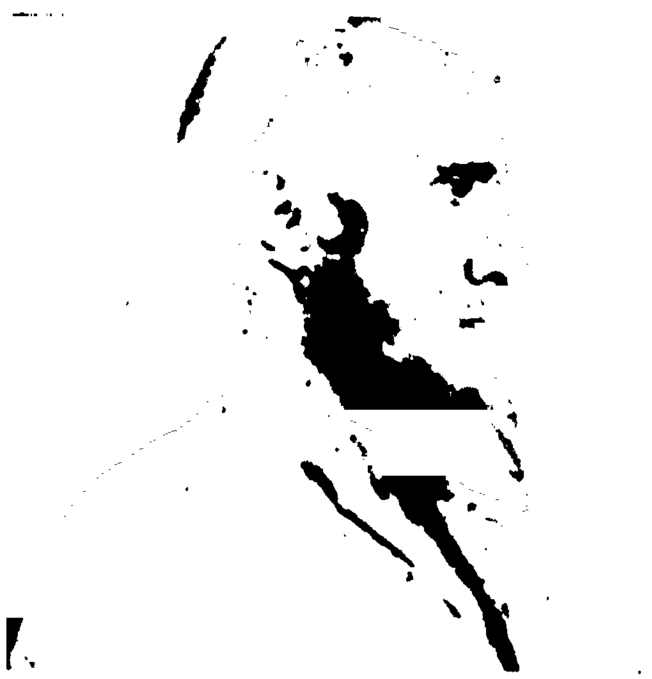
Martyr Hira Singh



Martyr Lehna Singh



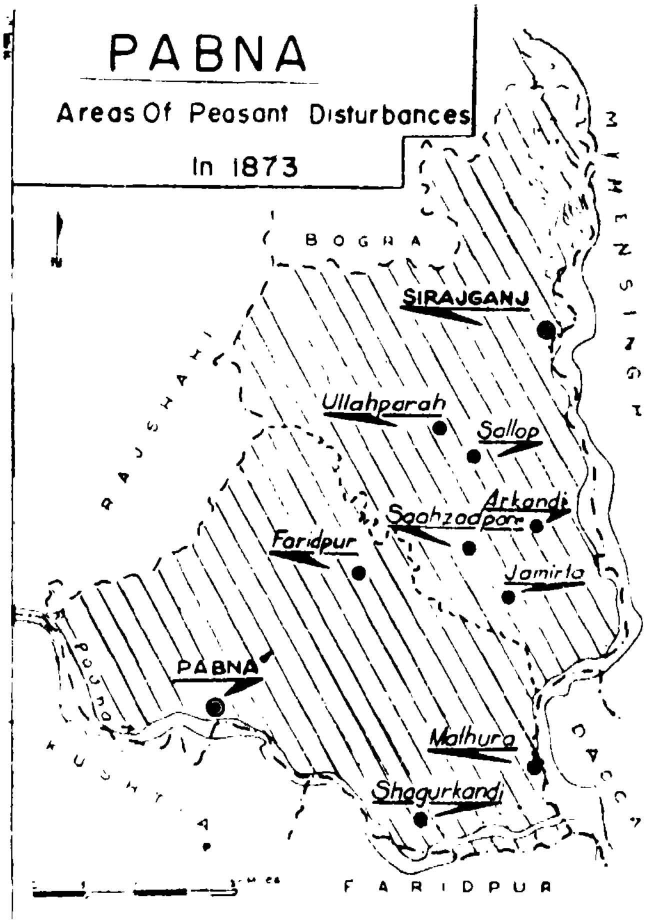
Painting of British "Mercy Killing" by Russian traveller and artist Verschagin



Sher Ali, Pathan martyr in Andaman

Sher Ali, Pathan martyr of Andaman.

Sher Ali was a wahabi Pathan who was sentenced to transportation for life at Andamans. When Lord Mayo, Viceroy of India visited Andamans in 1872, he was stabbed to death on 8 February by Sher Ali. He was sentenced to death and in his last statement he declared "I do not regret in the least my action and I am facing death like a true pathan. I am proud of this."



The area of Pabna rebellion

Pabna Rent Rebellion (1873)

The oppressive landlords of Norh Bengal, especially in the district of Pabna, raised the rent exorbitantly. In protest, as also voicing their demands of occupancy rights, the *Ryots* (peasants) of Pabna formed Rent Leagues (kind of Krishak Samitis). A widespread peasant movement resulted. Ultimately, the Government had to enact a new Tenancy Law in 1885, partly conceding the rights of the *Ryots*. The peasant movement was led by a small proprietor of land Ishan chandra Roy. Thier aim was not abolition of the Zemindary system, but stop eviction and exorbitant rent. It is in this period that Mir Mosharaf Hossain wrote his famous play in Bengali "Zemindar Darpan" and Abhay charan Das wrote his well-known treatise "Indian Ryot". Ramesh Chandra Dutt wrote a well-known article called **An Apology for Pabna Rioters,** under the pseudonym ERCYADAE.

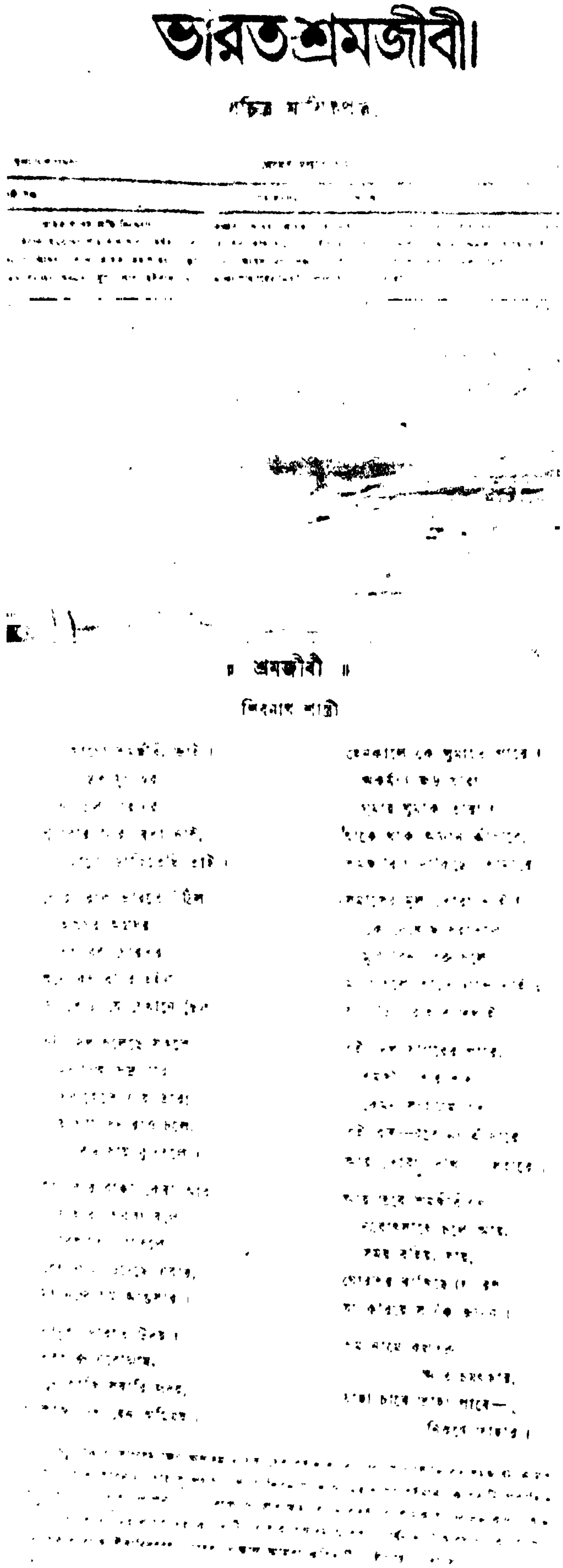


The place in Viper island where Sher Ali was hanged

The first workers' paper in India—Bharat Sramajibi (1874)—Sasipada Bandopadhyay, a well-known Brahmo Reformer, brought out from Baranagar, industrial suburb of Calcutta, an illustrated monthly journal called *Bharat Sramajibi* in 1874. A few years back, in 1870, he set up a working class organisation called *Bharat Sramajibi Samiti*. In the first number of the journal was printed a poem called *Sramajibi* (Worker) by Sivnath Shastri.



Sasipada Bandopadhyay



ভারতশ্রমজীবী।

॥ শ্রমজীবী ॥

শিবনাথ শাস্ত্রী

'Bharat Sramajibi'-monthly magazine
Sivnath's poem 'Sramajibi'

The Anti—Money lender struggle in Poona and Ahmednagar in Maharashtra (1874).

Poona Arrests 559, number of Convicted - 399.

Arrests at Ahmednagar 392
Number of Convicted 200

"The Magistrates found it very difficult to set reliable evidence against the rioters. The rioters snatched deeds of debt from the *Mahajans* and burnt them"

(Report of Deccan Riots Commission)



Nabagopal Mitra

Hindoo Mela (1867-1880)

Once a leading light of "Young Bengal" and later on a pillar of the Brahmo Movement, Rajnarain Bose established in 1865 a patriotic association called *Jatiyo Gaurab Sampadani Sabha*. This inspired Nabagopal Mitra (1840-1924), Ganendranath Tagore (1841-1869) and Dwijendranath Tagore (1840-1924) to set up every year *Hindoo Mela*. Upto 1880, 14 such Melas were held and contributed a lot to the growth of nationalism in the country.



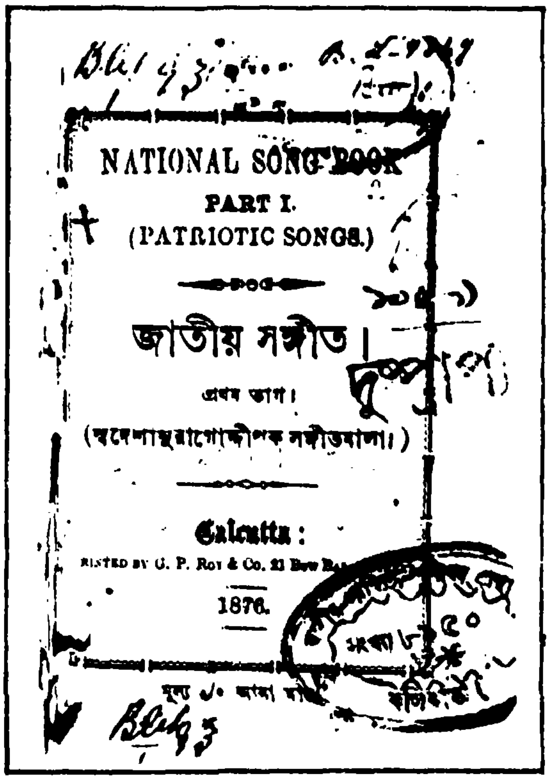
Rajnarain Bose



Jogendranath Vidyabhusan

National Songs (1876)

The songs that were sung in Hindoo Mela were collected in a single volume in 1876 by Dwarkanath Gangopadhyay.


NATIONAL SONG BOOK

PART I.

(PATRIOTIC SONGS.)

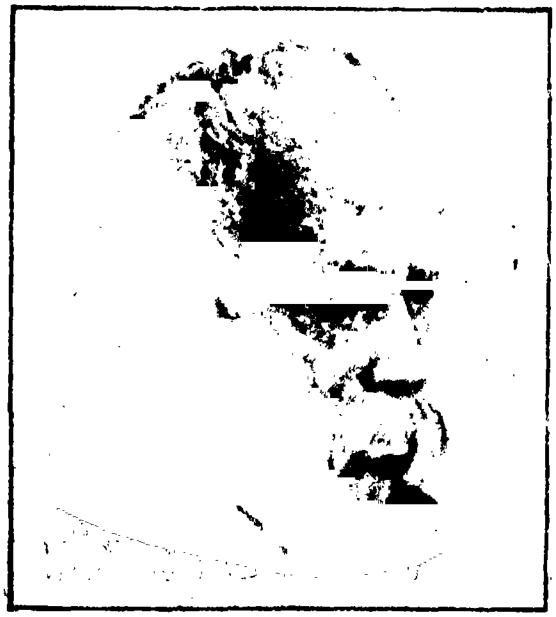
জাতীয় সঙ্গীত।

প্রথম ভাগ।

Calcutta:

1876.

Collection of National Songs



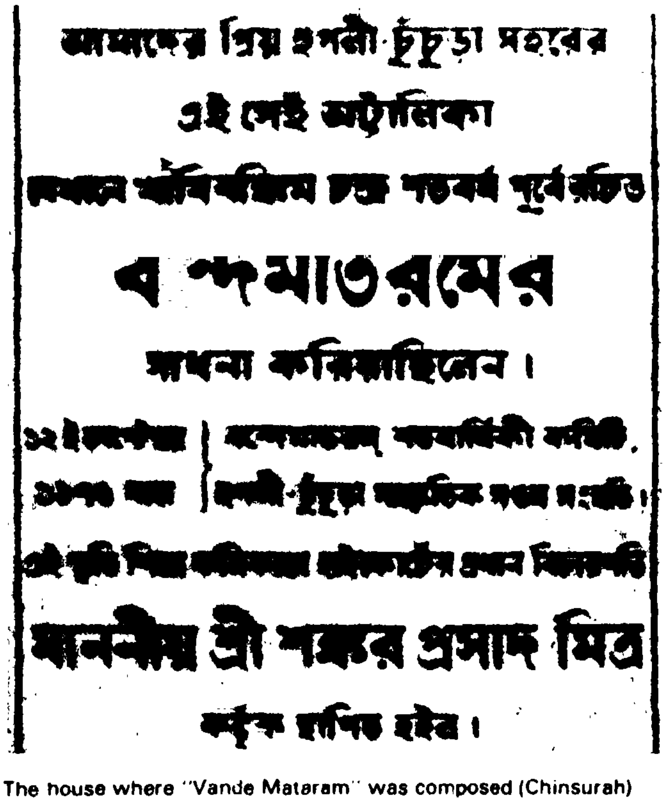
Dwarkanath Gangopadhyay-Compiler of National Songs



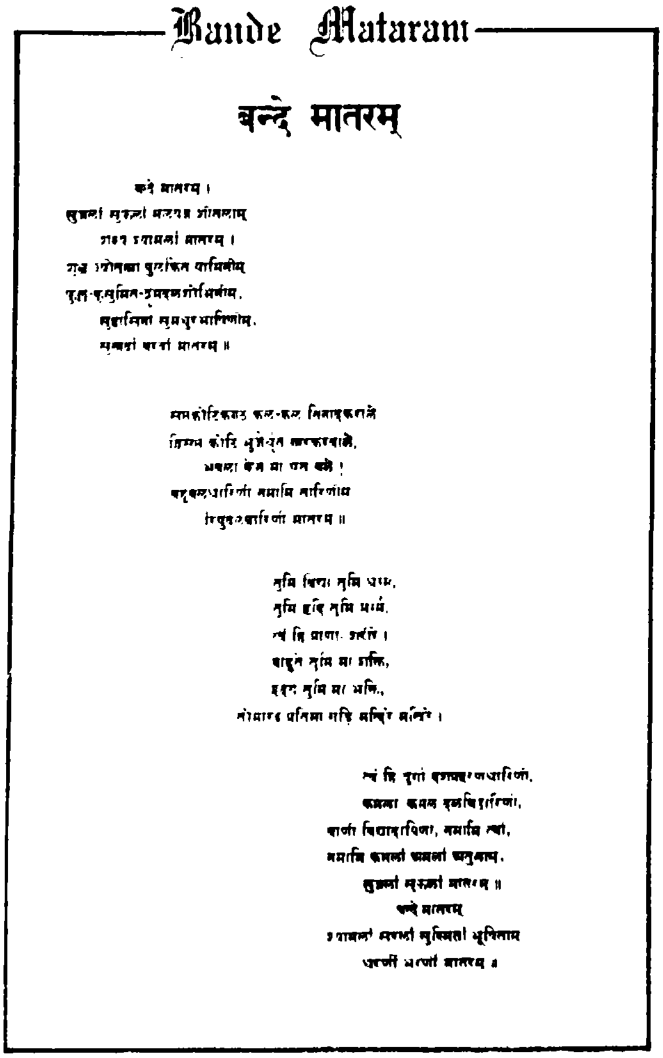
Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

Vande Mataram (1876)

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay composed the song Vande Mataram at Chinshura in 1876. In 1882, he inserted this song in his novel *Ananda Math*. In 1896, Rabindranath Tagore gave music to this song and sang it himself in the Congress session. Later on, many fearless patriots mounted the gallows with *Vande Mataram* on their lips.



The house where "Vande Mataram" was composed (Chinsurah)



The religious, social and educational reform movement among Educated People:

Opposing idolatory and casteism preaching monotheism and basing themselves on the teachings of Rammohan Roy, Debendranath Tagore, Kesab Sen, Sivnath Shastri and others carried on reform movement. Debendranath published *'Tatya Bodhini Patrika.'*, Keshab Sen edited *Sulav Samachar*, established working men's Institute, Sivnath and his friends directly participated in politics.



Behramji Malabari

These type of activities spread outside Bengal also. In 1844, in Surat, Dadoba Pandarong set up an organisation called *"Manab Dharma Samiti"* Next year, he set up in Bombay a society against idolatory, supported widow remarriage and tried to spread education among women and the down trodden masses. Pandit Romabai and Malabari, 'LokHitabadi' Gopal Hari Deshmukh carried on intense campaign against caste-system and Brahminical domination.

Narayan Meghaji Lokhande (1848) established in 1890 the **Bombay Mill Hands Association.** In 1867, Ranade and others established in Bombay, the *Prarthana Samaj*



Narayan Guru



Vireshlingam



Narayan Meghaji Lokhande



Jyouba Fuley

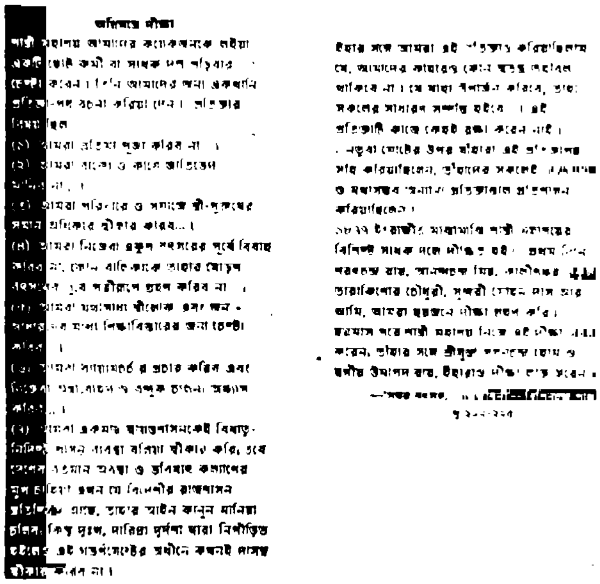


Mahadeo Govind Ranade

modelling it after the Brahmo Samaj. In Madras Sridhanal Naidu established a *"Veda Samaj"* and egalitarian thought appeared in the writings of Tamil writers like Sundaram Pillai and Malayalam writers like Srinarayan Guru (1856-1928). In Andhra, Vireshlingam carried on many sided activities against all forms of social injustice.

In 1875, in Punjab, Dayanand Saraswati established the *Arya Samaj* and Sir Syed Ahmed Khan established a college in Aligarh. The Deobandh Islamic School later on became a centre of militant anti British activities.





Sivnath Shastri and the 'sacred oath'

"We consider self-government to be the only form of government that God approves. Yet, considering the present state of the country, we shall abide by the laws of the present government. But whatever poverty, oppression or misery confront us, we shall never accept slavery under the present rulers"

The Oath of fire (1876)

In 1876, Sivnath Shastri made a small, select band of young patriots take the *Agnimantra* (Oath of Flame). Among them were people like Bipin Chandra Pal, Gagan Chandra Home, Kali Sankar Sukul, Dr. Sundari Mohan Das etc. One of the 7 pledges taken by them was as follows:

Sanjivani Sabha

"Jyotidada (Jyotirindranath Tagore) had set up a secret society. Its sessions were held in a deserted house. Rajnarain Bose was the mentor, sitting there with a skull and copy of the Rig-Veda in front of him. It is there that we took the pledge to liberate India" (Rabindranath Tagore) This was approximately 1876.



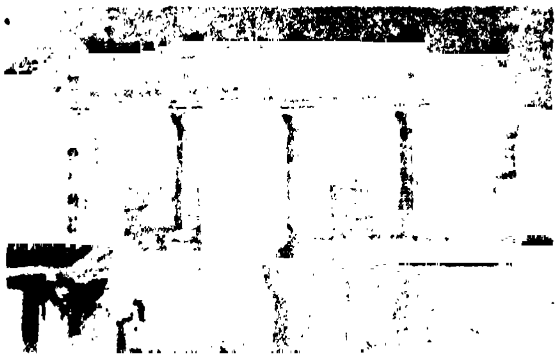
জ্যোতিদাদা এক গুপ্তসভা স্থাপন করেছেন,
একটি পোড়ো বাড়িতে তার অধিবেশন,
ঋগ্‌বেদের পুঁথি, মড়ার মাথার খুলি আর খোলা
তলোয়ার নিয়ে তার অনুষ্ঠান, রাজনারায়ণ বসু
তার পুরোহিত; সেখানে আমরা ভারত-উদ্ধারের
দীক্ষা পেলেম।

'অবতরণিকা', রবীন্দ্র রচনাবলী

'Sanjivani Sabha', Rajnarain Bose and Jyotirindranath Tagore

Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (1876)

Dr Mahendralal Sarkar (1833-1904) set up in 1876, the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, to encourage fundamental scientific research—for the first time in this contry. In later years, C.V. Raman won world renown by working in this institution.





Dr Mehendralal Sarkar

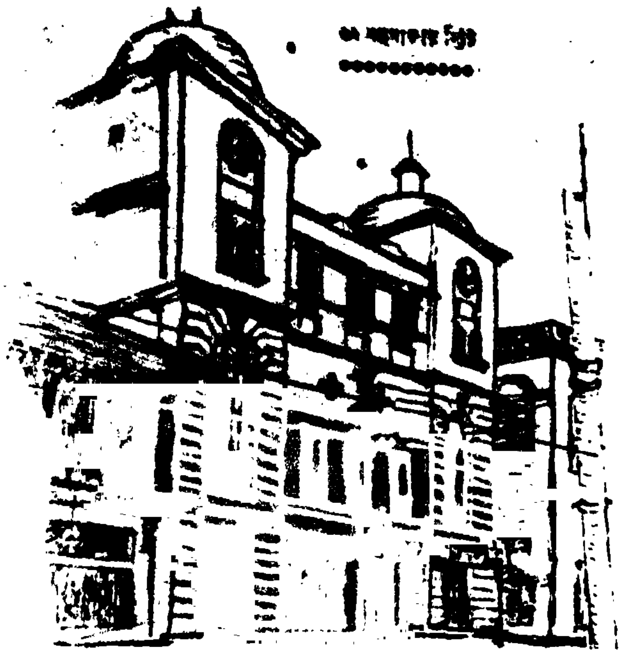
Indian Association (1876) in Calcutta and similar bodies in Bombay, Madras and Lahore.

On 26 July 1876, the Indian Association was set up in Calcutta. They took the lead in forming *"Ryot Sabha"* in the districts and campaigned against Zemindary oppression. Among the leaders were Surendranath Banerjee Ananda Mohan Bose, Dwarkanath Ganguly and others.

In 1852, Fardunji Nauroji set up the "Bombay Association", learning that in 1851 a "British Indian Association" had been established in Calcutta. Fardunji was a school teacher and among his pupils were no less a person than Dadabhai Naoroji With the students he built up a "Young Bombay" group something akin to "Young Bengal" in 1852, "Madras Native Association" was formed in Madras, under the leadership of Gajalu Luxminarayan Chetti.

In 1870, Ranade, Chiplukar, Gokhale etc. established in Poona the *"Sarbajanik Sabha"* Later on its Marathi organ came out, with the name of Kesari. In 1896, the "extremist" Tilak succeeded the "Moderate" Gokhale as the secretary of the Sabha and he also became the editor of Kesari.

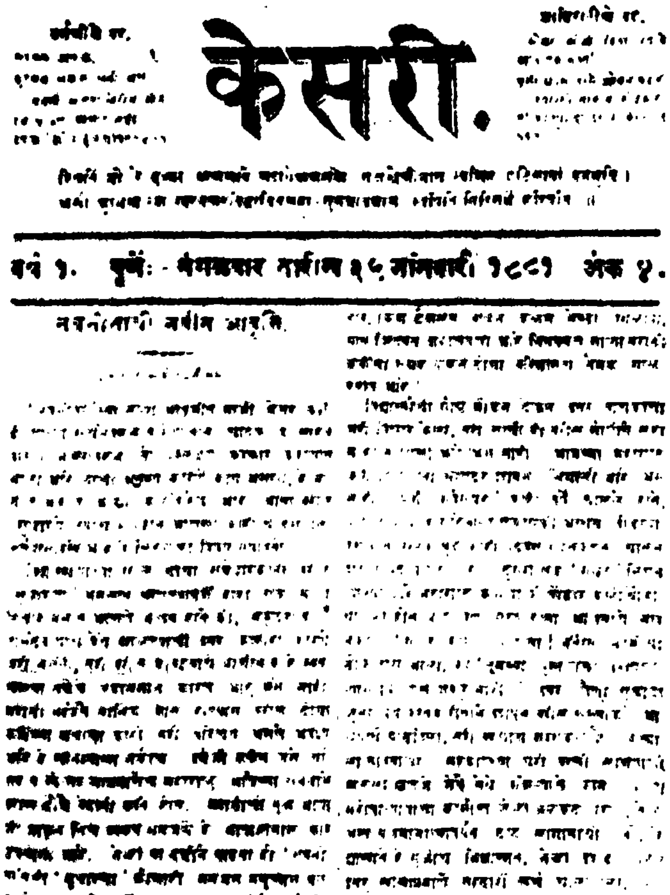
In Punjab, Srish Chandra Bose set up in 1883, the Indian National Society and published in the same year in English a volume called "Indian National Songs and Lyrics".



Indian Association



Fardunji Nauroji

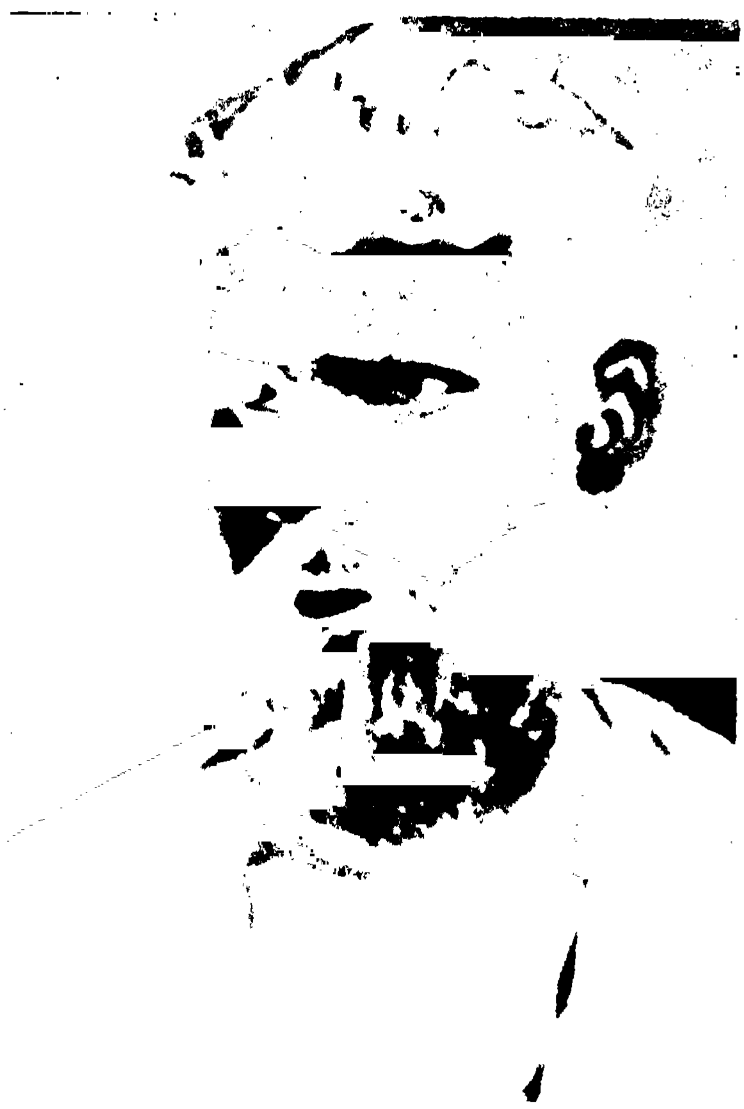


केसरी.

The 'Kesari'



Gajalu Luximinarayan Basu Chetti



Basudeo Balwant Phadke

Basudeo Balwant Phadke (1848-83)

He was son of a wealthy Brahmin family, educated in an English school and held a good government job. He was married and had a daughter. Yet in 1879 he organised 300 tribal and even muslim youth to revolt against the money lenders and later on against the British rulers. He carried on successful guerilla struggle. He was arrested in 1880 and transported for life to far off Aden. There, terrible oppression resulted in his death in prison in 1883. He was then only 35. In the court he declared "My aim was to drive out the British and set up a free Indian Republic. O my countrymen, forgive me for I have failed in my mission".



Massive meeting of Indians supporting the Ilbert Bill



First session of the Indian National Congress at Bombay (1885)

The Ilbert Bill

The British rulers enacted a series of repressive laws—Dramatic Performances Act (1876), Vernacular Press Act (1878), Arms Act (1878) and so on. On 17 April 1878, the Indian Association organised a massive protest meeting in Calcutta, where 5,000 people attended.

In 1883, Courtney Ilbert, Home Secretary to Viceroy Lord Ripon, introduced a Bill, proposing to give judicial power to Indian Magistrates to try even Europeans, accused of criminal offence. The entire European and Anglo-Indian community took up their cudgels against this proposed Bill. The Planters headed this agitation, with the Daily "Englishman" to the fore. The indian Association organised agitation in support of the Ilbert Bill. On 16 May 1883, they organised a massive meeting in support of Ilbert Bill in the Beadon Square.



Three founders of Indian National Congress
Hume, Dadabhai Naoroji and Wedderburn (From Left to Right)

Birth of the Indian National Congress (1885)

In December 1883, the first session of the Indian National conference was held in the Albert Hall, Calcutta. The second conference was about to be held in Calcutta in 1885, when W.C. Bonerjee and others organised the first session of the Indian National Congress at Bombay. At its very outset, Englishmen like Alan Octavian Hume and William Wedderburn helped to give birth to the Congress and even the Viceroy, Lord Dufferin gave it tacit backing. These are stubborn facts of History. They did so, in order to use the Congress as a "Safety-Valve" against the possibility of explosion of mass anger against British rule in India.



Gopal Krishna Gokhale



Ramabai Ranade

In the 5th session of the INC (Bombay 1889), five women joined as delegates: Kadambini Ganguli, Swarnakumari Ghosal, Pandita Ramabai, Vidya Gouri Nilkantha and Shrimati Nikaswa.



Ramesh Chandra Dutta

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Pandita Ramabai



Swarna Kumari Devi

The Tea-Coolies of Assam

The tea-labourers of Assam were known as *Coolies'*, recruited through *'Arkathis'* from poverty-striken tribal areas and sent to Assam in conditions of semi-slavery. Two Brahmo Reformers—Ramkumar Vidyaratna (1861-1901) and Dwarkanath Ganguli (1844-1898) went to Assam on behalf of the Indian Association and took great risks to ferret out the truth about how the coolies lived and worked. These exposures were published in *Sanjivani*, edited by Krishnakumar Mitra (1852-1936) and memorandum was placed before governor.

The Congress at first refused to discuss the coolie question, but at last in 1896, Dwarkanath succeeded in raising the issue on the Congress platform.



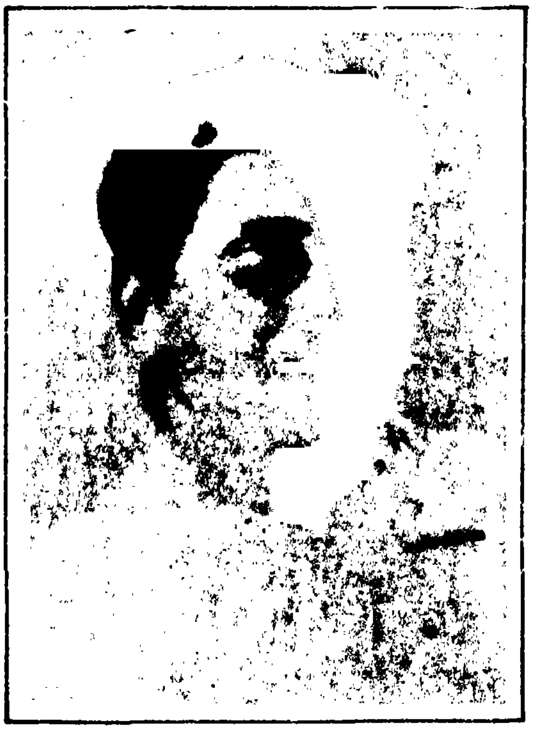
Ram Kumar Vidyaratna



Dwarkanath Ganguli



Krishna Kumar Mitra



Kadambini Ganguli

Rebellion in Manipur (1891)

Tikendrajit Singh (1859-91) a son of the Manipur royal family and a general, Thangal (1806-91) were hanged by the British on 13th August 1891, for having raised the flag of rebellion against British rule.



Tikendrajit Singh



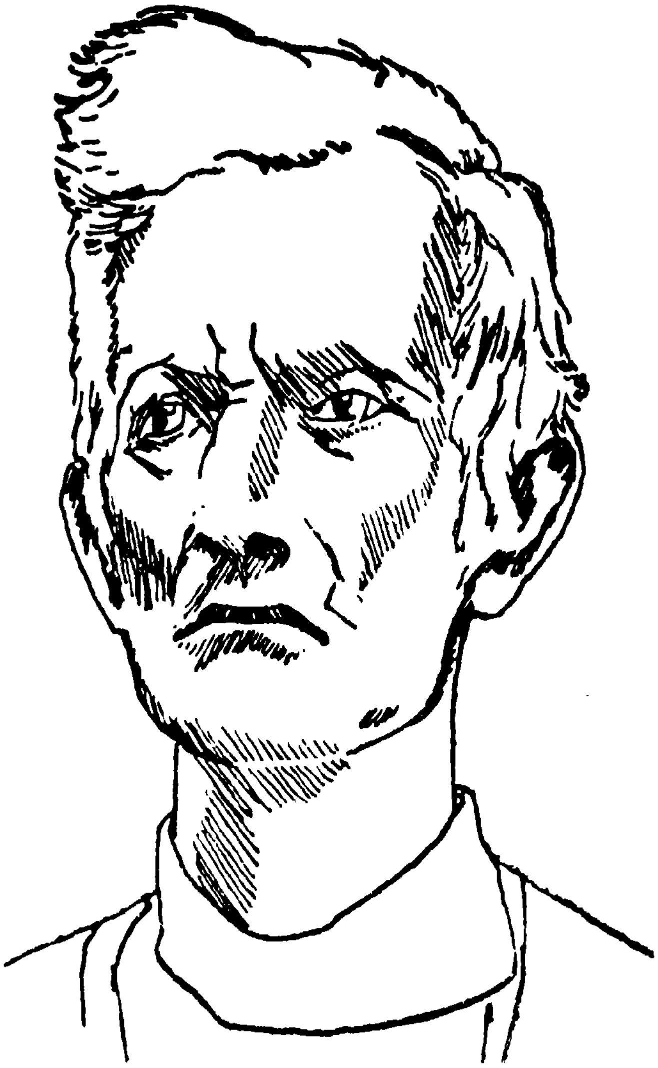
General Thangal

Some eminent names connected with Contribution to modern Indian Literature

—**Anandaram Dhekial Phukon** (1829-1859): Famous Assamese writer and reformer. He was instrumental in introducing Assamese language in schools and court.



Anandaram Dhekial Phukon



Fakir Mohan Senapati



Bharatendu Harish Chandra

—**Fakir Mohan Senapati** (1843-1938): Pioneer in the field of Oriya literature and a father of nationalism in Orissa. In his novels and short stories, the common people of Orissa have prominence.

—**Bharatendu Harish Chandra** (1850-1885) Father of Modern Hindi. Journalist and playwright.

—**Rabindranath Tagore**(1861-1941)

—**Gurajada Apparao**(1861-1916): Pathfinder in Telugu literature—poems, novels, plays.

—**Bhai Bir Singh** (1872-1924). Father of modern Punjabi literature.



Rabindranath Tagore



Bhai Bir Singh



Gurajada Apparao



Kumaran Asan



Mohammad Iqbal



Prafulla Chandra Roy

—**Kumaran Asan** (1873-1924)—Eminent Malayalee poet and organizer of the Ezava Community.

—**Panje Mangesh Rao** (1874-1934): Famous Kanara writer and poet.



Srinivas Ramanujam



Jagadish Chandra Bose

Three eminent pioneering Scientists

Jagadish Chandra Bose (1858-1937): Physicist and Botanist.

Prafulla Chandra Roy (1861-1944): Chemist

Ramanujam (1887-1920): Mathematician

Swami Vivekanand (1863-1902)

A famous exponent in the field of religion, philosophy and culture. A spokesman for oppressed humanity, champion of *Sudraraj,* justice fraternity and some form of Socialism--he inspired the youth very much.



Swami Vivekanand

The 3 Chapekar Brothers and Vinayak Ranade :

The Plague Commissioner Rand and his deputy Iyers, oppressed the people terr biy in the name of combatting, plague in the Bombay



Plague epedemic in Pune



Damodar Balkrishna



Basudeo

presidency They were killed and later two traitors Ganesh and Ramchand were killed also. For their action, the 3 Chapekar brothers Damodar, Balkrishna and Basudeo were hanged, together with Vinayak Ranade on 18 April, 12 May, 8 May and 10 May 1897 respectively. All these martyrs were disciples of the famous revolutionary Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.



Mahadeo Vinayak Ranade

Munda uprising under the leadership of Birsa Munda (1874-1900) in Chotanagpur :

In the vast tract of area in Ranchi, Chaibasa and Chotanagpur the landlords, moneylenders, missionaries, petty govt. officials, police and especially European officers carried on ruthless oppression against the tribal people for a long time. It is against this protracted oppression that massive Munda uprising led by Birsa took place in 1899-1900. Birsa was a son of a poor tribal and he obtained some education in christian missionary school in Chaibasa. But by 1886-87, Birsa had realised the real motive of the missionaries and concluded that whether high officers or missionaries, all Europeans were the same. He coined the famous slogan "all sahibs wore the same topi". Birsa started propagating though in a vague way, the concept of an independent Munda Raj.



Arrest of Birsa Munda's followers



Birsa Munda

The British arrested him in 1895 and the court fined him and sentenced him to two years conviction. In November, 1897, he was released from Hazaribag jail and immediately started propagating the same idea again. From December 1899 and January 1900, the Munda uprising led by him became intense and widespread. Men were killed on both sides and ultimately the British brought a huge army to the area and arrested Birsa on 3rd February, 1900. On 9th June 1900, inside Ranchi jail Birsa died.

On 23rd May, 1900, the "Bengalee" published a report that nobody knows how many tribals were arrested and how many of them died in prison. Nobody also knows how many tribals were shot dead.



Arrest of Birsa Munda

Jotindranath Bandyopadhyay alias Niralamba Swami (1877-1930) :

Jatindranath Bandyopadhyay was called 'Brahma of the Bengal revolutionary movement". He came to Calcutta from Baroda in 1902 and set up a revolutionary centre in 108, Circular Road, even after he became a *Sanyasi* and took the name of Niralamba Swami, he went to Punjab in 1902 and recruited to the revolutionary cause two uncles of Bhagat Singh.



Niralamba Swami

Anusilan Samity

On 24th March, 1902, the revolutionary *Anusilan Samity* was established in Calcutta with Barrister Pramathanath Mitra as the President. Sometime later its headquarters was shifted to 49, Cornwallis Street (now Bidhan Sarani). Among other outstanding founders of this *Samity* was Satish Chandra Basu (1876-1948), Pulin Behari Das (1888-1949) and Trailakayanath Chakraborty, better known as *Maharaj* (1877-1970). All of them were sentenced to transportation for life in Andamans. Pulin Behari Das set up branches of *Anusilan Samity* in East Bengal where physical exercise, training in dagger and lathis were the main activities. For a long time Pulin Behari Das was the most outstanding member of the *Anusilan Samity* in East Bengal. Maharaj remained underground for long years and became a legendary hero.



pramathanath Mitra, President, Anusilan Samity



pulin Das



Samity Office



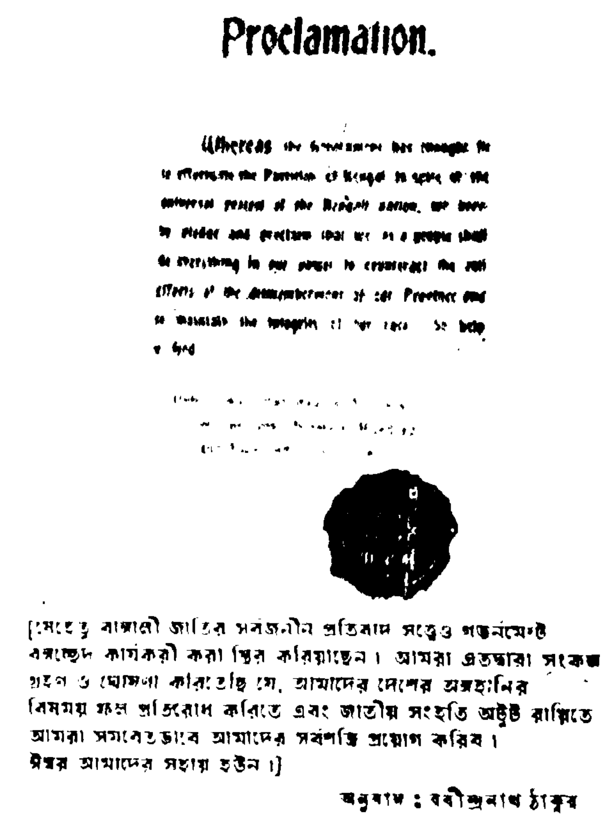
Secretary, Satischandra Basu



Trailakayanath Chakraborty (Maharaj)

The Swadeshi Movement (1903-1908)

The British Indian Government announced on 19th July, 1905, that they were going to set up a new province called East Bengal and Assam consisting of Chittagong, Dacca and Rajsahi divisions, hilly Tripura, Maldah and Assam. The partition of Bengal was formally effected on 16th October, 1905.


Proclamation.

Whereas the Government has thought fit to effectuate the Partition of Bengal in spite of the universal protest of the Bengali nation, we hereby pledge and proclaim that we as a people shall do everything in our power to counteract the evil effects of the dismemberment of our Province and to maintain the integrity of our race. So help us God.

[যেহেতু বাঙালী জাতির সর্বজনীন প্রতিবাদ সত্ত্বেও গভর্নমেন্ট বঙ্গচ্ছেদ কার্যকরী করা স্থির করিয়াছেন। আমরা এতদ্বারা সংকল্প গ্রহণ ও ঘোষণা করিতেছি যে, আমাদের দেশের অঙ্গহানির বিষময় ফল প্রতিরোধ করিতে এবং জাতীয় সংহতি অটুট রাখিতে আমরা সমবেতভাবে আমাদের সর্বশক্তি প্রয়োগ করিব। ঈশ্বর আমাদের সহায় হউন।]

অনুবাদ : রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর

Proclamation against partition of Bengal



Surendranath Bandyopadhyay

The same day was observed as a day of massive protest in Calcutta. Thousands of people bathed in the Ganges, tied the "*Rakhi*" in each other's hands and then went in procession under the leadership of the Poet Rabindranath Tagore singing his song "*Banglar Mati Banglar jal*". Calcutta observed complete "Hartal" on that day. In the evening in a big public meeting, pledge was taken to restore the unity of Bengal. The anti-partition pledge was translated into Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore himself.

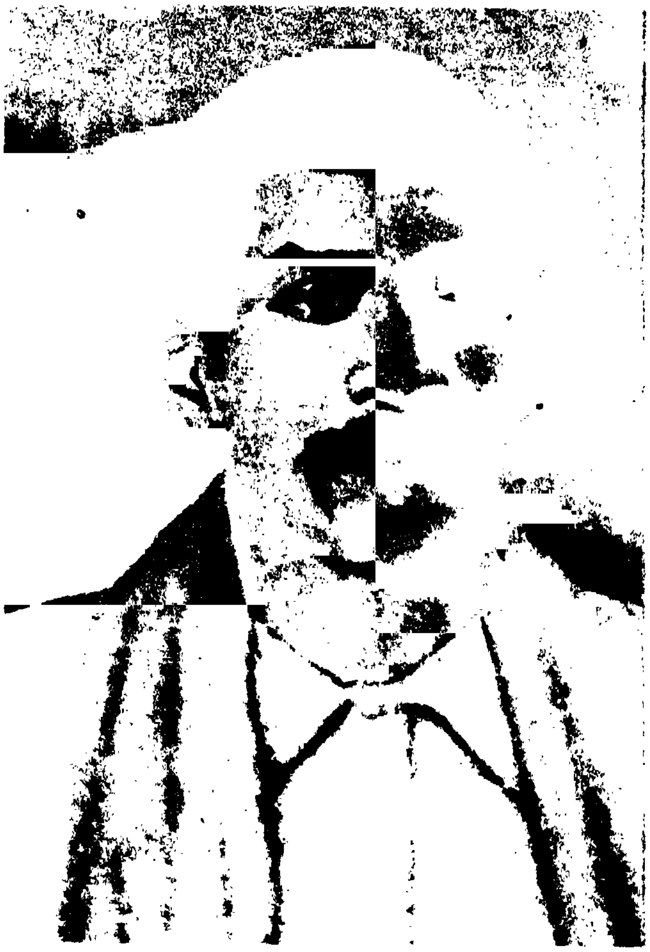


Lal-Bal-Pal

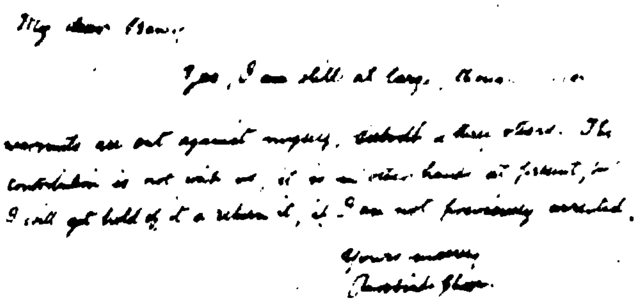
Before this on 13th July, 1905, Krishna Kumar Mitra, Editor of Sanjivani, published the following pledge of patriotism: "We are taking this oath in the name of our holy motherland and for the welfare of our country that we shall never use foreign goods if we get goods manufactured in this country. For this if we have to bear financial or other sacrifice, we shall be ready to do it. We will not only do all these ourselves, but try to persuade friends and all other people to act accordingly. We pray that God come to our help in this noble effort".

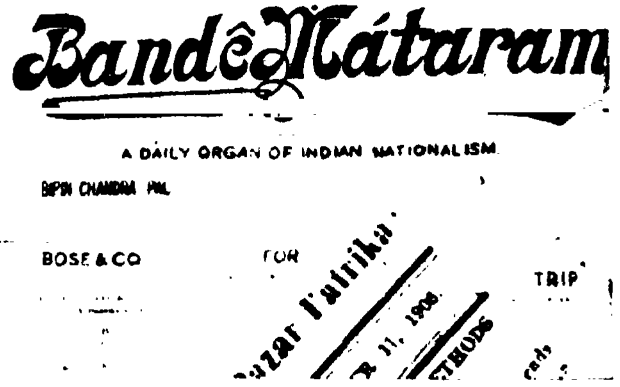
On 7th August, 1905, this boycott pledge in the form of a resolution was adopted from a huge public meeting held in the Calcutta Town hall. Viceroy Lord Curzon arrogantly declared "Bengal partition is a settled fact." The moderate leader of the Indian National Congress Surendranath Bandyopadhyay (1848-1925) at once sharply retorted "We shall unsettle the settled fact".

The three most outstanding extremist leaders were Lala Lajpat Rai of Punjab (1865-1928), Bal Gangadhar Tilak of Maharashtra (1856-1920) and Bipin Chandra Pal of Bengal (1858-1932). The people lovingly called them Lal-Bal-Pal leadership. When Chapekar brothers were involved in the Rand murder



Aurobindo Ghosh





Bande Mataram-organ of Indian Nationalism

case, Tilak was sentenced to 18 months conviction on the charge of being connected with them. Rabindranath Tagore himself raised money for the Tilak Defence Fund and gave a call for setting up a Tilak Defence Committee. On 19th September, 1907, another extremist leader Bipin Chandra Pal was sent to jail for 6 months for contempt of court in connection with a case against the "Bande Mataram" Patrika.

Another important extremist leader was Aurobindo Ghosh (1872-1950). In the last decade of the 19th century he published sharp English articles in Induprakash and clarified the nationalist outlook. In August 1926, he started bringing out from Bengal the journal "Bande Mataram". In the real sense he was the Editor of the paper too. In 1907, he wrote series of articles in the paper on the doctrine of passing resistance. In 1908, he was arrested in the Alipur Conspiracy Case, but was acquitted for want of evidence. Then he went underground and slipped off to Chandannagar. Later he went to Pondicheri and settled there permanently.

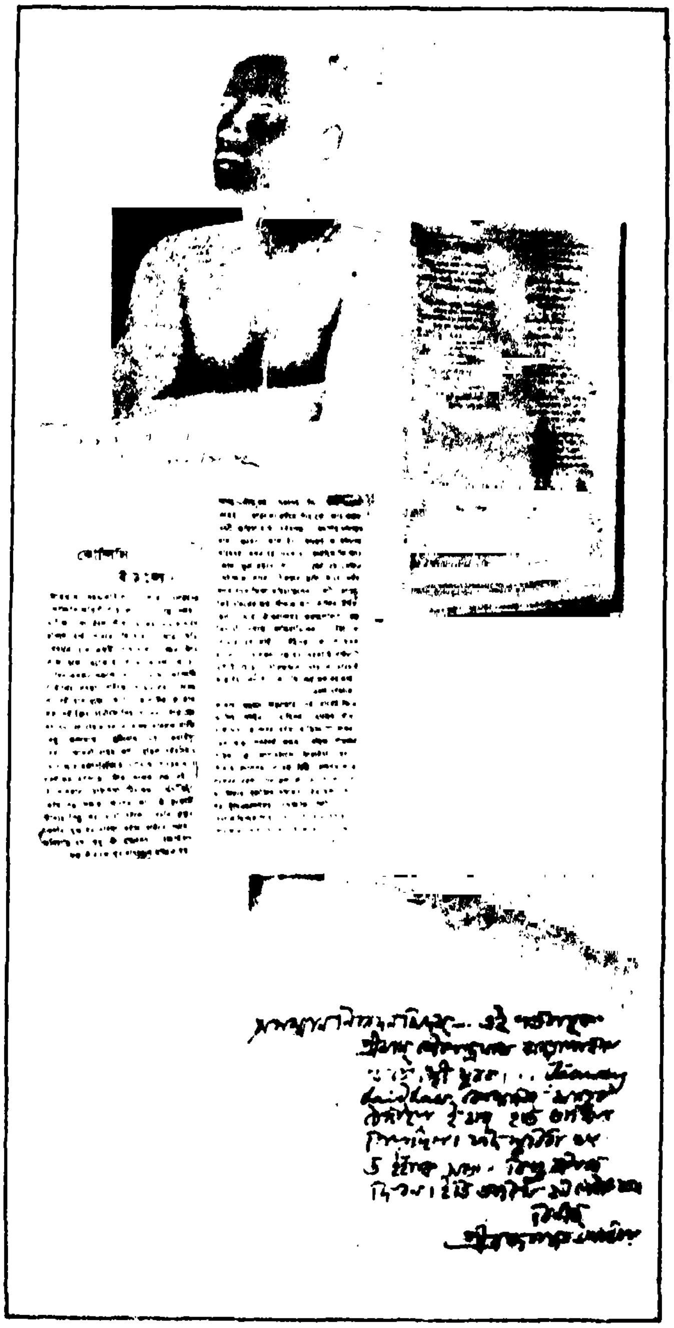


Sister Nivedita

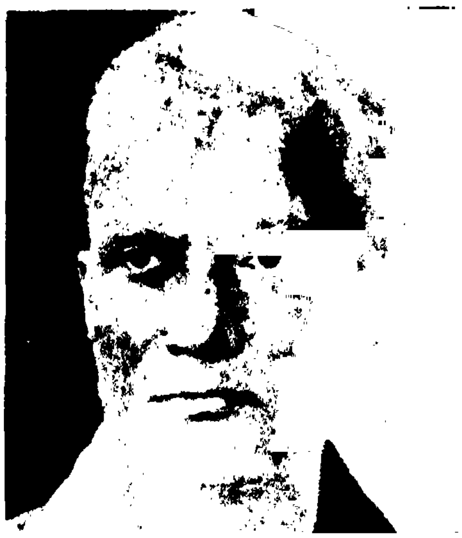
Margaret Noble was a daughter of Ireland who became a disciple of Vivekananda and became famous as Sister Nivedita (1867-1916). In India she came in close contact with Rabindranath Tagore, Jagadish Chandra Basu and Abanindranath Tagore and became a great admirer of ancient Indian culture. She was also connected with the revolutionary activities in Bengal. Altogether she is an outstanding personality of the *Swadeshi* phase. Brahma Bandav Upadhyay (1861-1907) was in turn a Roman Catholic and a Vaidyantic *Sanyasi*. In November, 1904, he established an evening daily called "Sandhya" where he attacked British rule in flaming language. In 1907, the paper was suppressed and Brahma Bandav Upadhyay was arrested on charge of sedition. He underwent an operation while the case was going on and died on the operation table.



Kakuzo Okakura

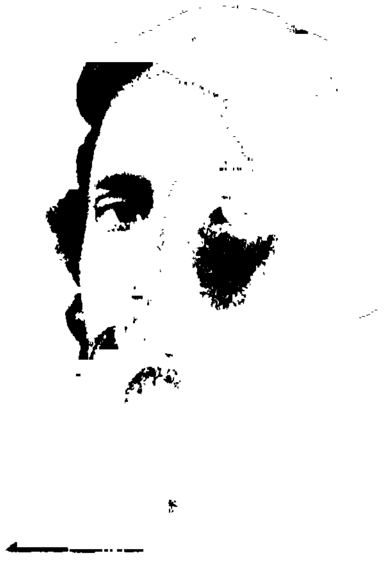


Brahma Bandav Upadhyay, 'Sandhya', his letter



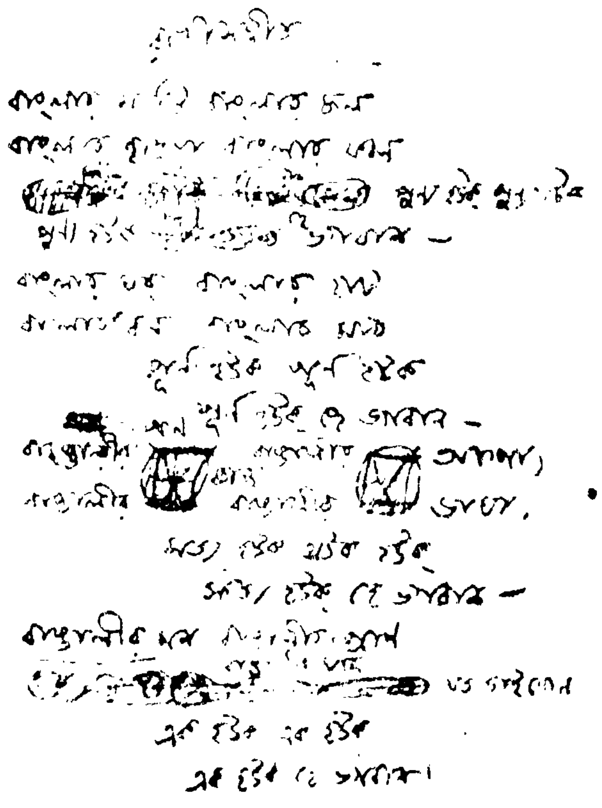
Surendranath Tagore

In the Swadeshi phase Rabindranath Tagore composed and sang numerous famous patriotic songs. His song on *Rakhi* ushered in the Swadeshi phase. His concept of nationalism was also made clear by his famous article "Swadeshi Samaj". Both in the sphere of thought and emotion Tagore's contribution to the Swadeshi Movement is unique.



Rabindranath Tagore

Among others who composed patriotic songs, who roused all Bengal were Kaliprasanya Kabya Bisharad (1861-1907), Dwijendralal Roy (1863-1913), Rajani Kanta Sen (1865-1910) and Atul Prosad Sen (1879-1934). Equally memorable were the patriotic prose writings of Ramendra Sundar Trivedi and Sakharam Ganesh Deuskar. Deuskar's "Deser Katha" was proscribed by the Government, yet this illegal pamphlet went into five editions and thousands of copies were sold.



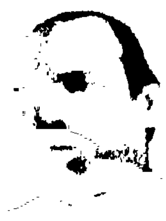
The famous 'Rakhi-Sangeet'



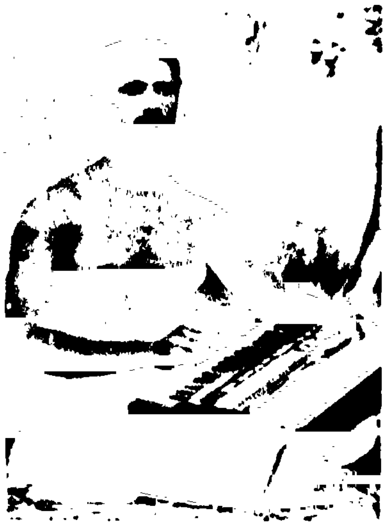
Dwijendralal Roy



Atul Prosad Sen



Kaliprasanya Kabya Bisharad



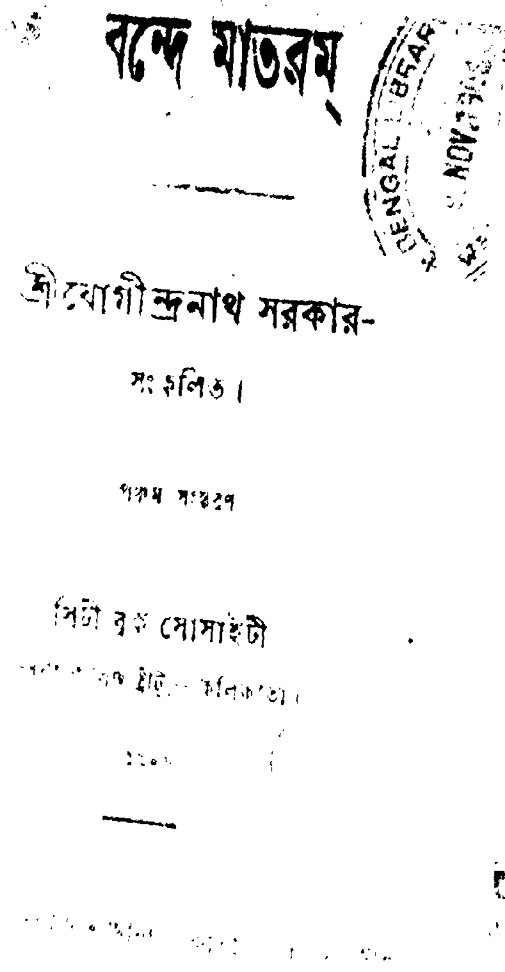
Rajani Kanta Sen

Mukunda Das (1878-1934) was the veritable bard of the Swadeshi phase. His patriotic folk songs and plays inspired millions in the Bengal countryside.

Under the impact of the Swadeshi Movement a few trade unions sprang up in the Railways, in Government Press, in the Jute Mills and among Taxi drivers. Among the early trade unions leaders were Athenisium Apurba Kumar Ghosh, Aswini Kumar Bandyopadhyay, Prabhat Kusum Ray Chowdhury, Premotosh Basu, Rajat Roy and others. Many of them were Barristers. On 27 July 1906, in the office of the "Sandhya" a Railwaymen's Union was established.



Ramendra Sundar Trivedi



বন্দে মাতরম্

শ্রীযোগীন্দ্রনাথ সরকার-

সংকলিত।

সিটী বুক সোসাইটী

Bande Mataram Compiled by Jogindranath Sarkar



Mukunda Das



Sakharam Ganesh Deuskar in death bed



Sarala Devi

To crush the patriotic movement in schools, colleges, Carlyle issued a circular on 22nd October, 1905, threatening to expel all students who would join the Swadeshi movement. By another circular on 8th November, 1905, shouting of Bande Mataram was also



Raja Subodh Mullick

banned. As a protest, on 4th November, 1905, the Anti Circular Society was set up in Calcutta with Sachindra Prasad Basu as the Secretary. The first national school was set up in Rangpur on 8th November, 1905. On 9th November, Subodh Mullick promised to donate Rs.1 lakh for the spread of national education. The grateful people gave him the title *Raja* . One of the main exponents of the national education movement was Satish Chandra Mukherjee, Editor, **Dawn**. The nationalist muslim leader Liakat Hossain led student's patriotic squads for selling *Swadeshi* clothes, singing at the same time Rajani Kanta's song *Mayer Deoa Mota Kapar* Men like Tahal Ram gave courageous patriotic speeches.





Liakat Hossain



Sacretary Anti-Circular Society
Sachindra prosad Basu.

Barisal Provincial Conference (Ap... 1906)

The Barisal Provincial Conference was disbanded by police ban and outrages. Many young activists, most of them members of the Anti Circular Society, were injured by police repression. Even Surendranath was arrested and insulted.

The key organiser of the Conference was Aswini Kumar Dutta, the greatest public leader of Barisal. He was the Chairman of the Reception Committee. The Barrister Abdul Rasul was elected President for the Conference.

Chittaranjan Guha Thakurta, school boy, son of another Public leader of Barisal MonoranjanGuhaThakurta was severely beaten up by the police, but he went on shouting Bande Mataram until he become unconscious.



Abdul Rasul



Aswini Kumar Dutta

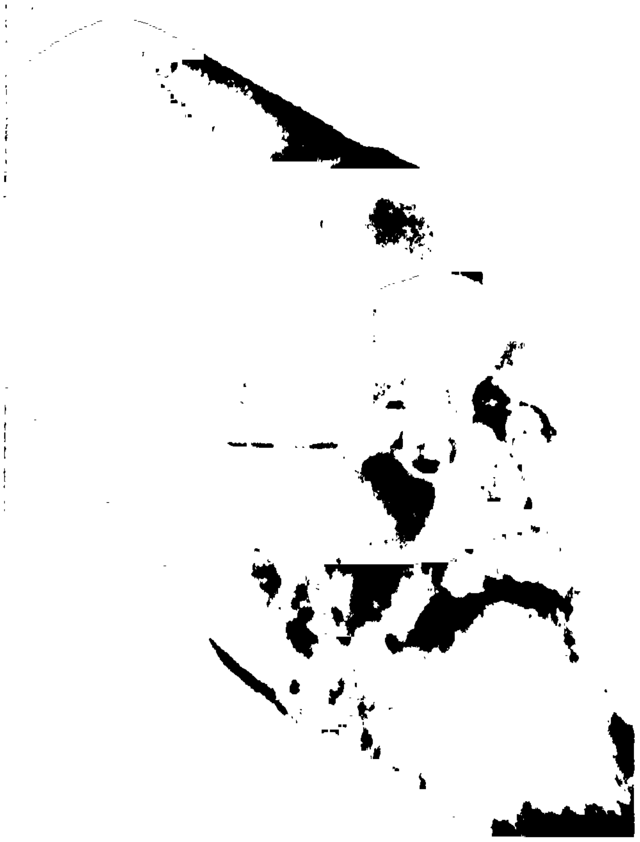


Father, Manoranjan Guha Thakurta with wounded son Chittaranjan



Commenting on partition of Bengal-cartoon, booklet and Bepin Chandra's letter

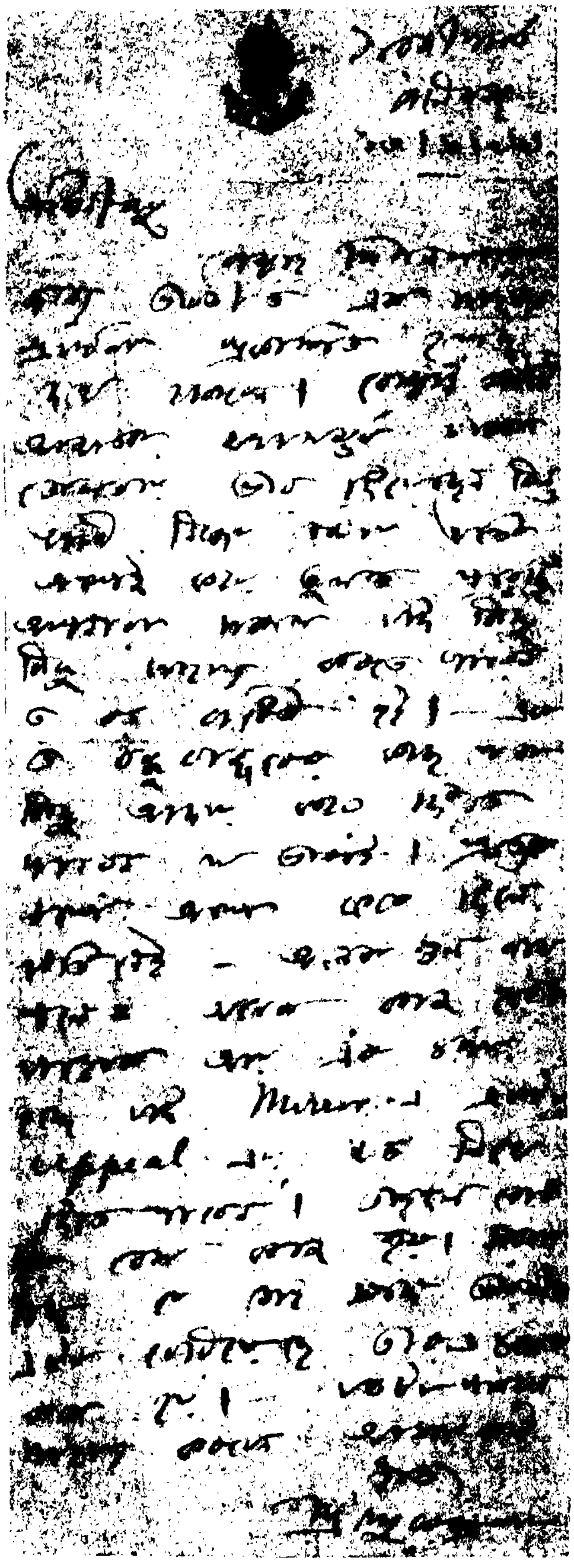
Calcutta from 26 to 29 ...nai Nauraji presided over it ... self-Govt. as the main aim of ...ment. This Congress Session also ...of boycott and *Swadeshi* and started ... national education. It was here that for ...e a tri-colour national flag was flown



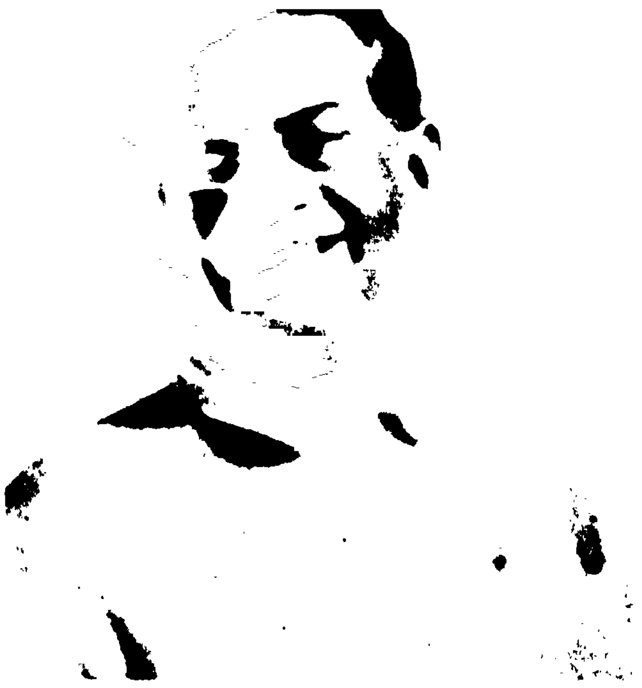
Dadabhai Nauraji



National Flag (1906)



Letter of Surendranath Tagore



Surendranath Haldar



Prabhat Kusum Roy Chowdhury



Aswini Kumar Bandyopadhyay



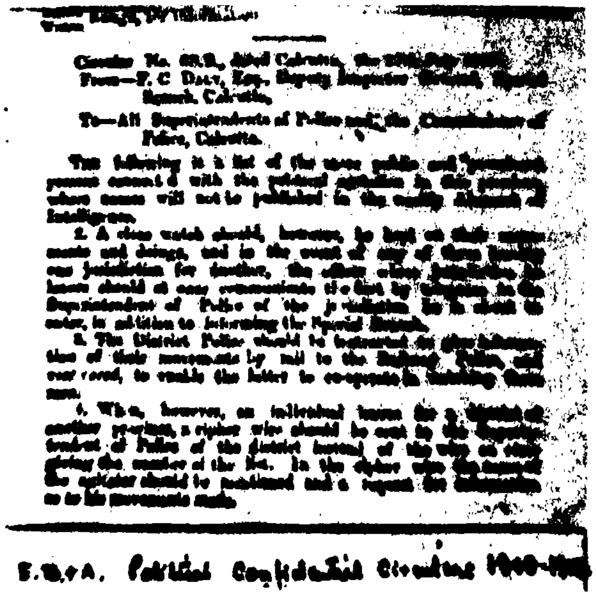
Premtosh Basu



Eminent barrister for political cases in Swadesi period-Bijoy Chandra Chattopadhyay (B.C. Chatterjee)

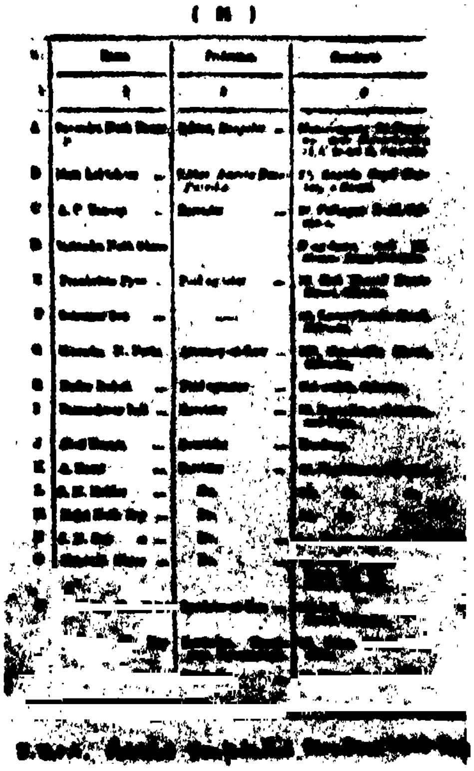


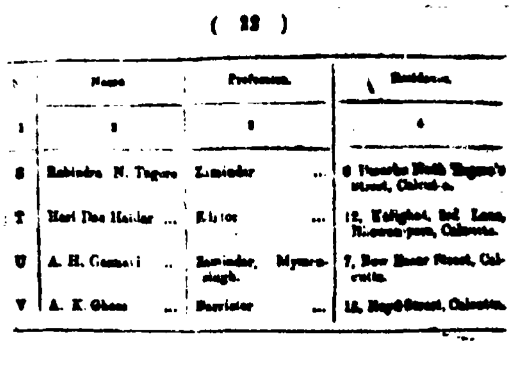
Rajat Roy



From—F. C. Daly, Esq., Deputy Inspector General, Special Branch, Calcutta.

To—All Superintendents of Police and the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta.





(12)

	Name	Profession	Residence
1	2	3	4
S	Rabindra N. Tagore	Zamindar ...	6 Dwarka Nath Tagore's Street, Calcutta.
T	Hari Das Haldar ...	Editor ...	12, Kalighat, 3rd Lane, Bhowanipore, Calcutta.
U	A. H. Gaznavi ..	Zamindar, Mymensingh.	7, Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta.
V	A. K. Ghose ...	Barrister ...	15, Boyd Street, Calcutta.

Name of Rabindranath and Gaganendranath were also with Surendranath Bandhopadhyay and Motilal Ghose in the list of detective department.



Tilak, Lajpat, Ajit Singh and other national leaders were held in this Mandalaya jail during the Swadeshi period



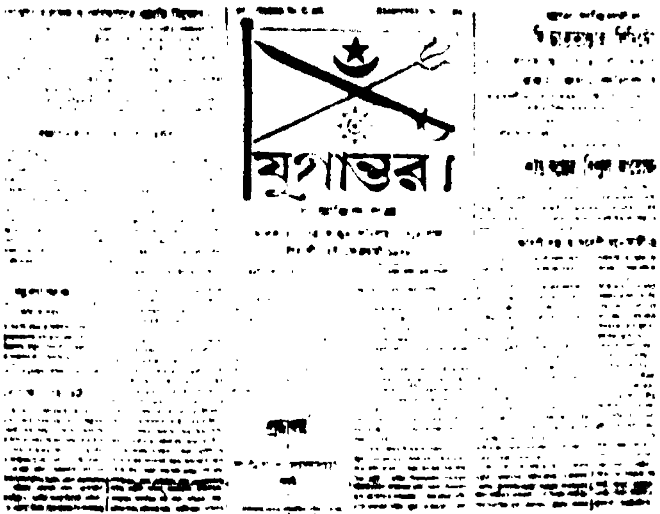
Bipin Chandra Pal was turned out from Bengal and kept interned in Agra

Jugantar, weekly organ of the revolutionaries, started comming out from April, 1906. Its Editor, Bhupendranath Dutta was sentenced to one year s conviction for seditious editorials. Later on, revolutionaries who clustered round this paper came to be known as belonging to the Jugantar party.

When Bhupendranath was convicted, Bengalee ladies gathered together in the house of Dr. Nil Ratan Sarkar and congratulated the mother of Bhupendranath. In 1907, the illegal leaflet of the revolutionaries (Sonar Bangla) was published. Here for the first time there is a reference to the Russian revolution of 1905.

Subsequent to the Maniktala bomb case Government repression bacame rampant throughout the country

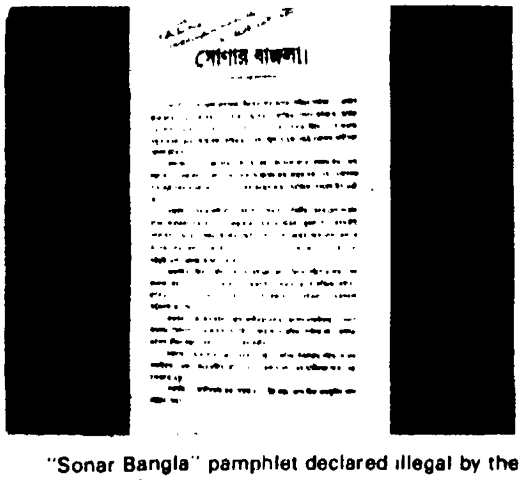
Khudiram Bose (1889-1908) and Prafulla Chaki (1888-1908) these two revolutionists were sent to Muzaffarpur to kill the oppressive Magistrate Kingsford. Unfortunately two ladies were killed in place of Kingsford. Khudiram was hanged on 11 August, 1908, in Muzaffarpur jail. Prafulla Chaki avoided arrest by committing suicide. Some unknown poet composed a famous song called *Ekbar Biday De Ma* in honour of Khudiram. This song became familiar.



যুগান্তর।



Bhupendranath Dutta, editor of "Jugantar" newspaper



"Sonar Bangla" pamphlet declared illegal by the British ruler

যতোধর্মস্ততো জয়:

সম্মানিত সর্বজন পূজ্যার নিবেদন,

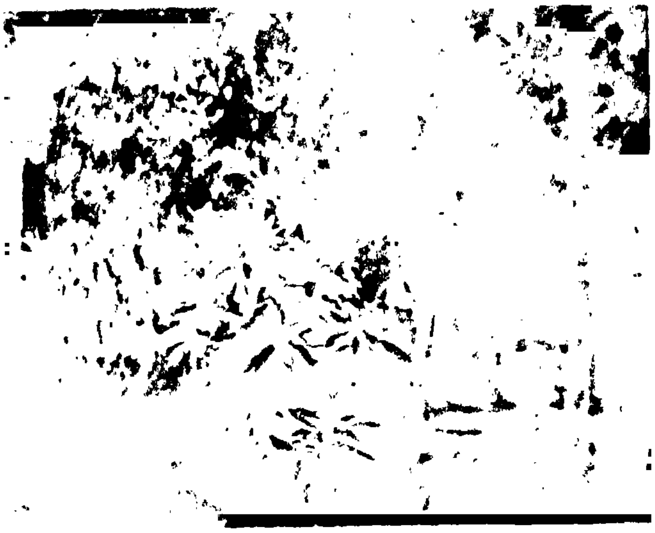
আমরা কতিপয় বঙ্গনারী যুগপৎ আনন্দ ও বিষাদভার লইয়া আপনাকে অভিনন্দন করিতে আসিয়াছি। আপনার পুত্র স্বকীয় মাতৃভূমির স্বদেশের সেবা করিতে গিয়া রাজদ্বারে যে নিগ্রহভোগ করিয়াছেন তাহাতে আমরা প্রত্যেক বঙ্গনারী অসীম গৌরব অনুভব করিতেছি। পতিত জাতি ক্ষীণপুণ্য, কর্তব্য ও লুপ্ত গৌরব পুনরায় লাভ করিতে গিয়া পদে পদে যখন তীব্র অপমান ভোগ করেন, তখন সে নিগ্রহ উজ্জ্বল মণির ন্যায় জাতীয় জীবনের শোভাবর্ধন করিয়া থাকে। বিধাতার কৃপায় আপনার পুত্র আজ যে অনুকরণীয় আদর্শ স্থাপন করিয়া আসিয়াছেন তাহার দীপ্তিতে কেবল আপনার কুল নহে -- সমগ্র বঙ্গদেশ আলোকিত হইয়াছে। এরূপ সন্তানের জননী হইয়া আপনি ধন্য, পবিত্র, জননী ধন্য ও জন্মভূমি আলোকিত হইয়াছেন। আপনার পুত্রের ন্যায় দ্বিতীয় সম্প্রদায়ের পুত্র প্রতি বঙ্গনারীর গর্ভে অবতীর্ণ হউন, এই আশীর্বাদ আমরা বিধাতার নিকট ভিক্ষা করিতেছি।

ইতি --

৮১নং হ্যারিসন রোড,
কলিকাতা

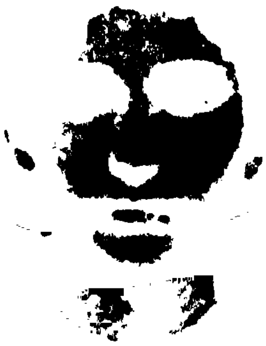
১৫শে শ্রাবণ, ১৩৪১ সাল
সমবেত বঙ্গ মহিলাগণ

Reception of Bhupendranath s mother by the Assembly of Bengali ladies





"Murari Pukur Garden-This tree was used as target of firing practice by the revolutionaries



Khudiram



Khudiram being arrested



Prafulla Chaki

The Murari Pukur Garden in Maniktala was the place from where on 2nd May, 1908, the revolutionaries Barindra Kumar Ghosh, Ullaskar Dutta, Upendra Nath Bandopadhyay and others were caught with arms. All of them became accused in the Alipur Conspiracy Case. The first two were sentenced to death, but later on death sentence was commuted to transportation for life in the Andamans.



Revolutionary Barindra Kumar Ghosh



Upendranath Bandopadhyay



Ullaskar Dutta



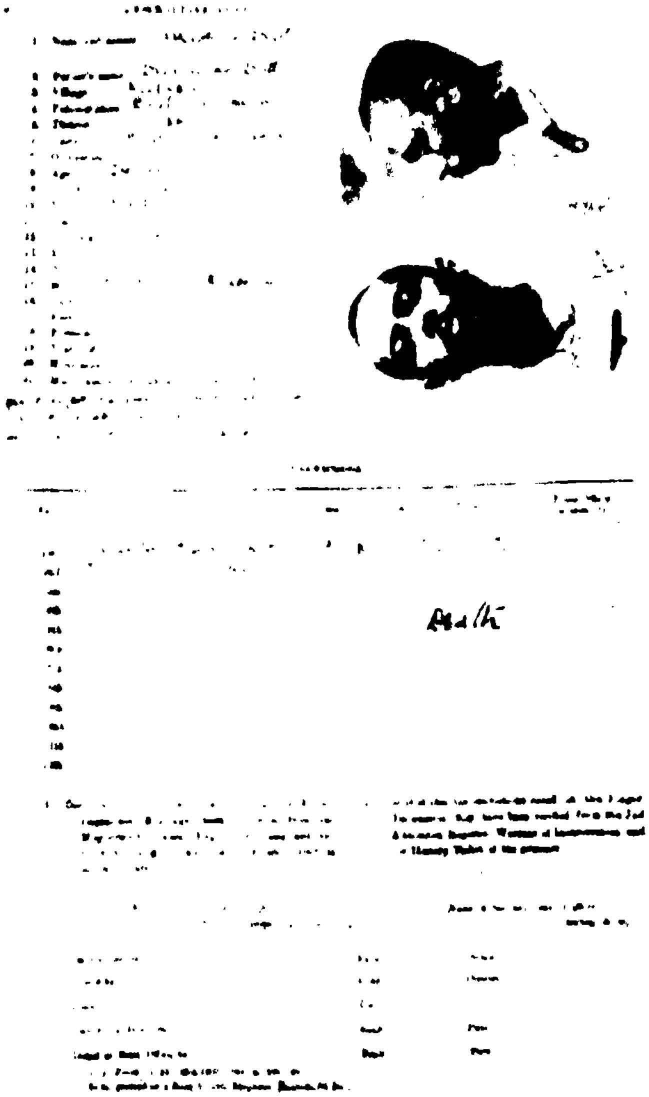
Hem Chandra Das (Kanungo



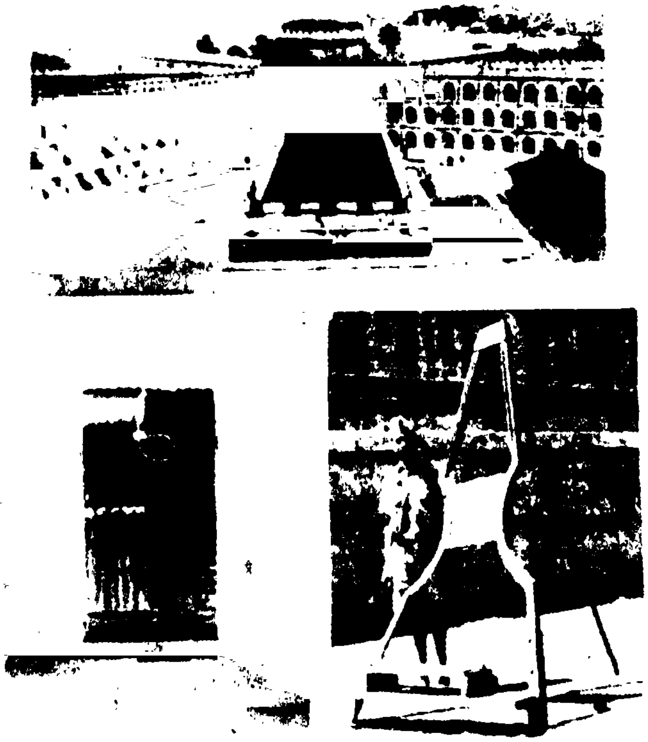
Abinash Bhattacharya

These are the photographs of Aurobindo, Barindra Ullaskar and Abinash Bhattacharya, all accused in the Alipur Bomb Case.

Narendra Goswami was a revolutionary who became an approver. He was shot dead inside the jail for this act of treachery by Kanailal Dutta (1886-1908) and Satyendranath Bose (1882-1908). Both of them were hanged in November, 1908.



Death sentence of Ullaskar Dutta in the prison report

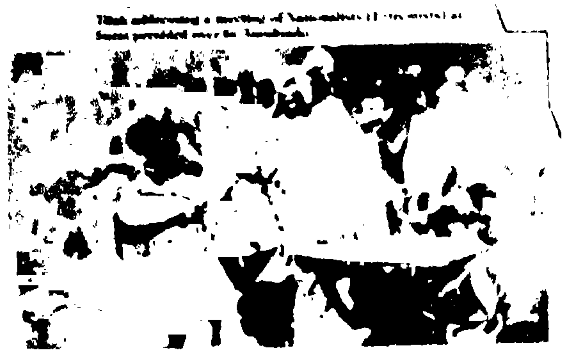


Andaman Cellular jail, "Tiktiki" for whipping hanging place

In the 19th century many Wahabi Prisoners, rebels of 1857 and possibly some others were transported to Andamans but the Andaman Cellular jail for political personnel was constructed in 1906. The revolutionaries convicted in the Maniktala case in 1908 were the first to be sent there.



Kanailal Dutta in cremation ground, Satyendranath Bose, Kanailal rearrested inside the jail on murder charge of approver Narendra Goswami



Tilak addresses the extremists in Surat Congress, President Aurobindo Ghosh

Clash between the moderates and extremists and split in the Surat Congress (1907)

In 1907, at the Surat Session of the Congress there was a headlong clash over control of the party between the moderates Surendranath Bandopadhyay Rashbehari Ghosh and the extremists Lal-Bal-Pal. A temporary split in the Congress was the result.

Peasant unrest in Punjab and the deportation of Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh (1907)

In 1927, Canal Taxes were raised in the Bari Doab area of Punjab, land rent was also increased. The publisher of the weekly "Punjabi" was convicted and all these led to serious unrest among the peasants in Punjab. Lajpat Rai and Sardar Ajit Singh, uncle of Bhagat Singh, were the two main organisers of this peasant unrest. Clashes took place and the British were unnerved. Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh were arrested and sent to far-off Mandalay jail. Sardar Ajit Singh later fled to Iran with another famous revolutionary Sufi Amba Prasad (1858-1915). From there he sent to Brazil where he settled down. He was allowed to return to India after the Second World War was over.



Chidambaram Pillai



Sardar Ajit Singh



Subrahmanya Shibam

Mass unrest in Tuti Corin and Tirunelvelli (1908)

Bipin Chandra Pal's tour of South India deeply influenced Chidambaram Pillai of Tirunelvelli (1872-1936). During Swaraj day in 1908 Chidambaram Pillai and Subrahmanya Shibam were arrested. There were spontaneous working class *Hartal*, strike and mass unrest in Tuti Corin and Tirunelvelli in protest against this arrest. Four people were killed in police firing But the police *thana* and Government offices also were burnt down. For 3 days mass unrest continued.

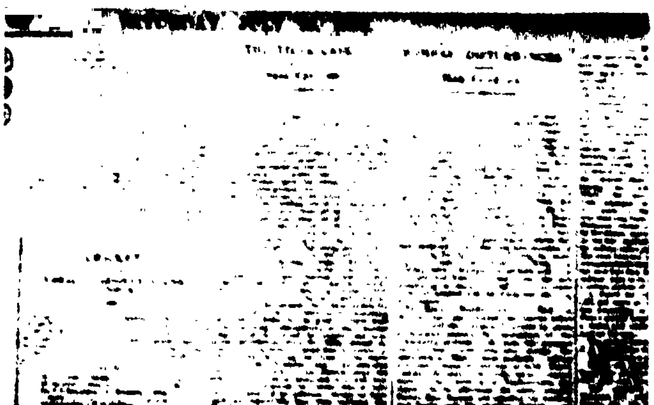
Government held that for all these acts of violence Chidambaram Pillai and Subrahmanya Shibam were primarily responsible. The court, therefore, on 7th July, 1908, sentenced Pillai to 20 years and Shivam to 10 years transportation to Andamans.



Tilak's statement before the judge

Tilak's conviction, Bombay working class general strike and Lenin (1908)

For publishing seditious article in Keshari. Tilak was sentenced to 6 years rigorous imprisonment on 22nd July, 1908. He was sent to far-off Mandalay.



Times of India s report on general strike of Bombay labourer

As a protest against this conviction of Tilak the Hindu and Muslim working classes of Bombay organised general strike for 6 days. This was an act unprecedented in India. There was complete *"Hartal"* and total closure of shops on a political demand - release of Tilak. In the city of Bombay there was barricade, fighting and clashes with the military and the police. More than 200 workers and ordinary citizens gave their lives in this struggle.

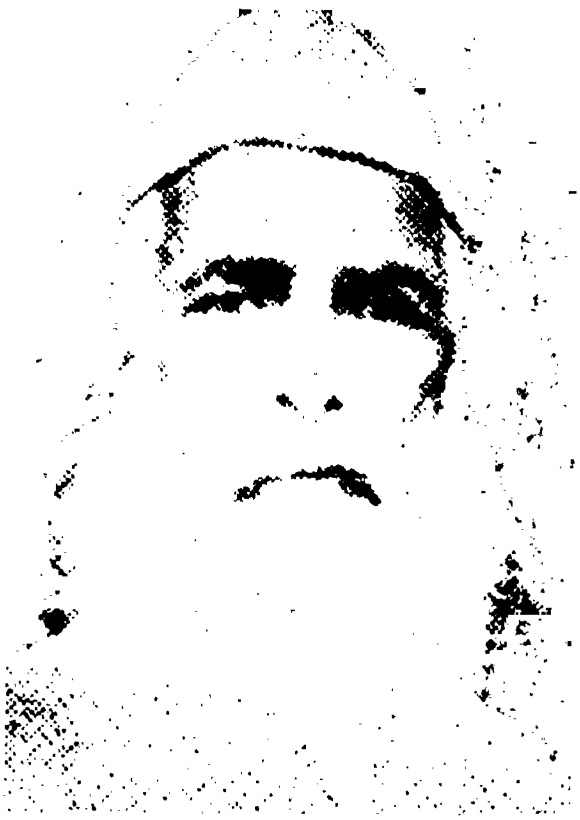
Lenin was then exiled in Switzerland and there he read the news of the strike in Bombay. He wrote "India's working-class has already become conscious and have started political mass struggle. Since this is so, the days of the Russian type of British Government in India are rapidly coming to and end" (Inflammable material in World politics, August, 1908).

Bharatmata Society or Anjuman - a Muhibban - a Watan

The famous revolutionary of Moradabad Sufi Amba Prosad who fled to Iran in 1909 with Sardar Ajit Singh established this Samity with the revolutionaries of Punjab and U.P. in 1907. Among the more famous members of this Samity were Sardar Ajit Singh and his two brothers Kissan Singh (father of Bhagat Singh) and Swarna Singh, Lala Pindi Das, Lala Kedarnath Saigal, Lala Hardayal, Lala Anand Kishore Mehta, Babu Iswari Prosad, Pandit Ramchandra Peswari and Moulavi Zia-Ul-Haque Hapur.



Sufi Amba Prasad



Nandagopal Chopra



A few members of 'Bharatmata Society' (left to right)
Kedarnath Saigal, Lala Lalchand (Falak),
Lala Govindadas Lala Hanumant Sahai
Mrs. Padmabati Ramchandra, Lala Pindidas
Pandit Sunder Lal and Pandit Amir Chand Bombwal

Swarajya Patrika (1907 - 1910)

In the district of Muzaffarnagar, U.P., the young revolutionary Santinarayan joined the Bharatmata Society and under its direction started from 9th November, 1907, an Urdu weekly called *Swarajya* from Allahabad and became its first Editor. After two and a half years in 1910 the Government suppressed this paper.

What is to be noted is that during life span of Swarajya, 8 of its Editors were sentenced to long time imprisonment and 2 became absconders. Four of them



Munshi Ram Sevak

- Hotilal Vurma of Haryana, Babu Ramhari of Gurudaspur, Nandagopal Chopra of Dehradun and Ladharam Kaphoor of the district of Gujrat were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for 10, 21, 30 and 30 years and sent to Andamans. These are the only cases of political prisoners who were sent to Andamans for writing seditious articles in papers.

Just before his arrest, Ladharam Kaphoor printed the following advertisement in his paper: "Wanted an Editor for Swarajya. Daily salary: 2 dry chapatis, one glass cold water and 10 years rigorous imprisonment for every Editor." Ladharam suffered torture in Andaman, but he remained completely fearless and unbowed. For such act of heroism his Andaman comrade gave him the title of Field Marshall.



Hotilal Vurma



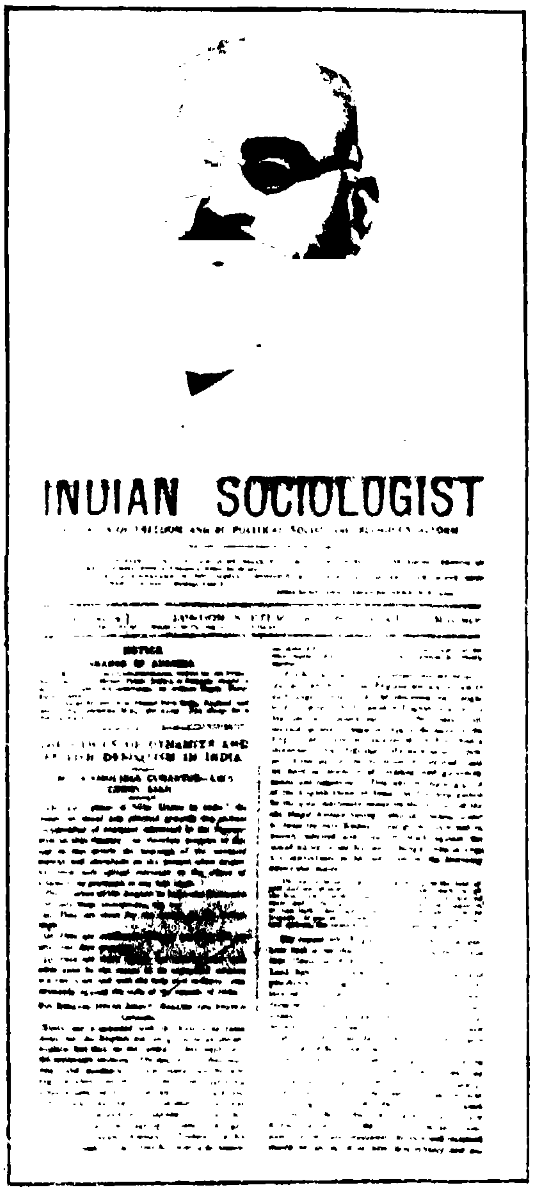
Babu Ramhari



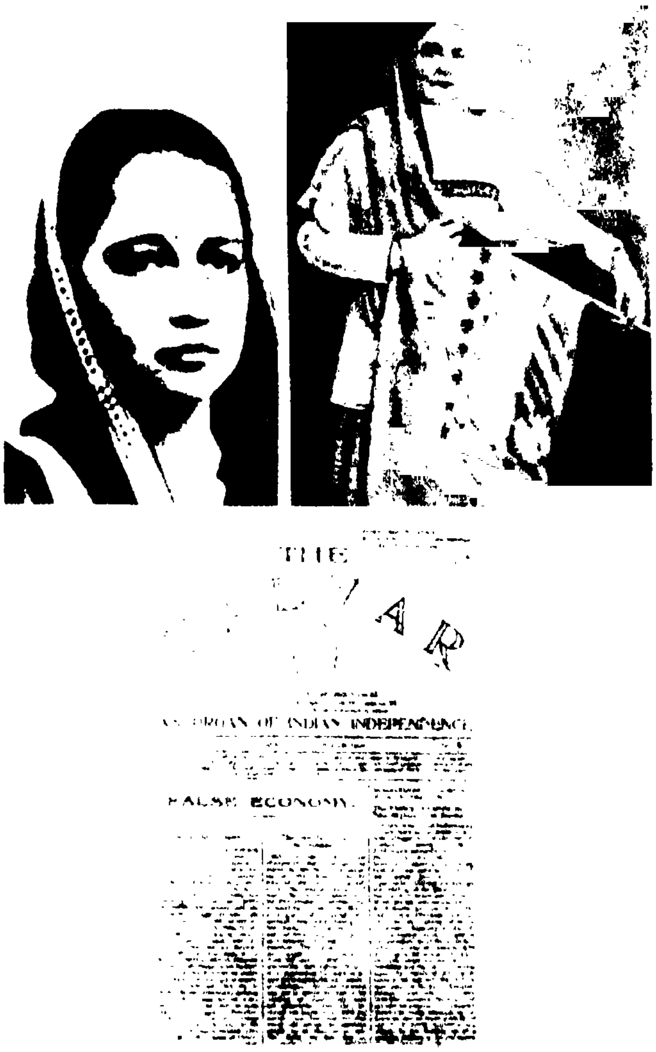
Ladharam

Shyamji Krishna Verma (1857-1930)

Shyamji Krishna Verma, Professor of Culture, at Oxford, was the first Indian abroad who became revolutionary in London. He set up a Board for Indian students on the "India House" and in 1905, he started publishing a paper called Indian Sociologist. Through these two institutions, he carried on his revolutionary activities. Later on to avoid arrest Shyamji Krishna went to Paris and then to Switzerland. After he left England Indian Sociologist was published irregularly and was closed down altogether in 1922.



Shyamji Krishna Verma and 'Indian Sociologist



Madam Cama, Madam Cama with National Flag in Stuttgart conference and 'TALVAR' Newspaper

Vikhaji Rustam Cama (1861-1934)

This famous Indian revolutionary abroad was better known as Madam Cama. Her fields of activity were first in London and then in Paris. From this place she together with another revolutionary named Sardar Singh Raoji Rana used to smuggle arms to Indian revolutionaries at home and also gave training in firearms to Indian revolutionaries.

Madam Cama and Rana joined the French Socialist Party and as their delegates joined the International Socialist Congress at Stuttgart in 1907. There Madam Cama hoisted the national tricolour flag of India as the symbol of Indian Independence. This flag was similar to the one that had flown in the Calcutta Congress of 1906.

In this Stuttgart Congress Madam Cama heard the speech of Lenin and was attracted towards his personality. After the October Socialist Revolution in Russia in 1917, she was deeply influenced in Marxist ideas.



Madam Cama with National Flag in hand and S.R. Rana in Stuttgart conference



Use of National Flag by the free Indian Government in Kabul



Hemchandra Das (Kanungo)



Vinayak Damodar Savarkar



Madanlal Dhingra

Others who were behind the planning of National Flag



Sachindra Prosad Basu



Sukumar Mitra

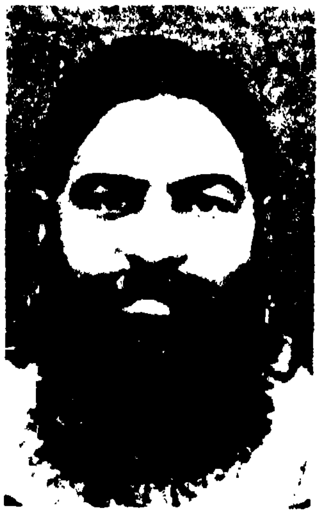
Vinayak Damodar Savarker (1883-1966)

Two famous revolutionaries of Nasik in Maharashtra Ganesh Damodar Savarker and younger brother Vinayak Damodar Savarker established in 1899 a revolutionary organisation called *Mitra Mela* This was renamed as *Abhinava Bharat Samity* in 1907. In 1906, Vinayak went to England and worked under the guidance of Krishna Verma and his India House. There he tried to organise young Indian revolutionaries abroad. After the murder of Sir John Curzon Wily Vinayak was arrested. He was being brought to India as a prisoner by sea. Near the Port of Marsailles he jumped from the boat into the sea and swam to the French coast, but the French police again handed him over to the British. As a result, a famous case was brought before the Hague International Court on the question of political asylum. But under the pressure of imperialist powers, the case was dismissed. Vinayak was brought home and together with his elder brother Ganesh Damodar he was sentenced to transportation for life in the Andamans.

Madanlal Dhingra

He was an engineering student and a follower of V.D. Savarker. On Ist July, 1909, in the Jahangir Hall in London he shot dead a British high officer called Sir John Curzon Wily. The court sentenced Dhingra to death and he was hanged in a jail in England on 17th August, 1909.

In his last statement Dhingra wrote "A nation which as been kept down with the help of foreign bayonets carries on continuous struggle against their oppressors. The only education that India need now is to make supreme sacrifice. One can educate others in this field by sacrificing one's own life. That is why I am proud for this act of martyrdom".



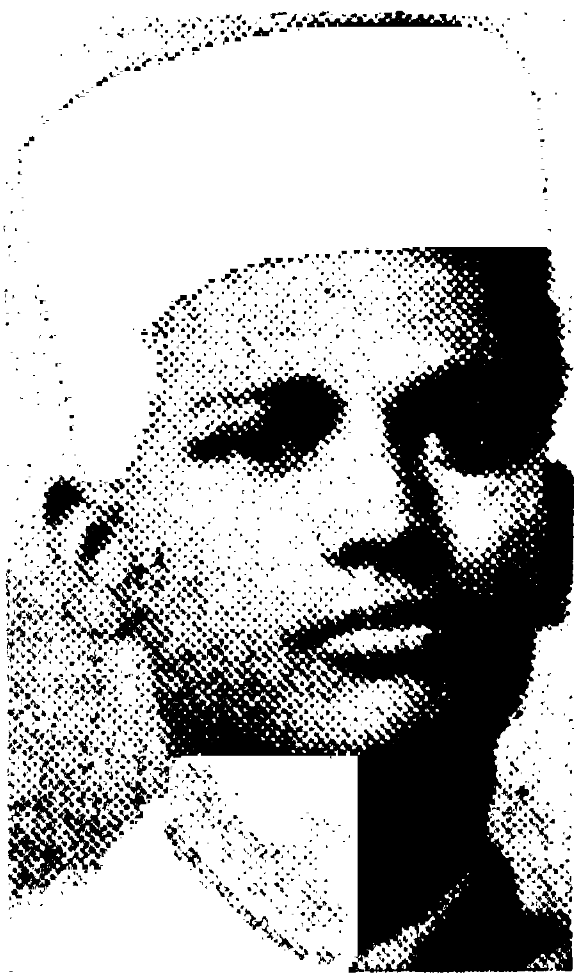
V.V.S. Iyer



Young Savarkar



Sir John Curzon Willy shot dead by Dhingra



Ananta lakshman Kanhere

Ananta Lakshman Kanhere (1891-1910), Deshpande, Carvey and Wanchi Iyer

On 22nd December, 1909, Ananta Lakshman, a disciple of Ganesh Damodar Savarker, shot dead Jackson, District Magistrate of Nasik. With him were two more young revolutionaries - Narayan Deshpande and Krishnagopal Carvey, all three young heroes were hanged by the British on 10th April, 1910.

Wanchi Iyer was a revolutionary from Travancore. On 17th June, 1909, he shot dead Ashe, the oppressive Collector of Tinevelli and then committed suicide. As a result, Tinevelli conspiracy case was launched. Nilkantha Iyer as the prime accused was sentenced to seven years rigorous imprisonment.



Wanchi Iyer



Nilkantha Brahmachari, convicted as prime accused in Tenevelli conspiracy case

It was later on established that the Browning Pistol with which both Ashe and Jackson were killed, was sent from Paris to India by Madam Cama and by R. Rana.

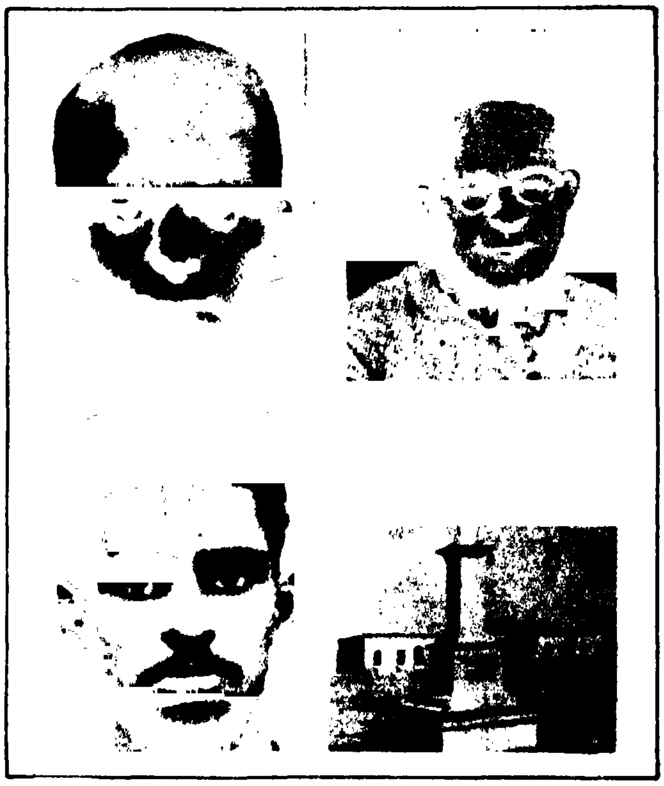


"Deshabhimani" Ramkrishna Pillai

"Deshabhimani" Ramkrishna Pillai (1878-1916)

Ramkrishna Pillai was a freedom fighter in the princely State of Travancore. His paper "Deshavimani" was suppressed by order of the Raja of Travancore. His press was confiscated and he was driven out of the State.

"Deshavimani" Ramkrishna Pillai will always be remembered as being the writer of a book in Malayalam called Karl Marx : His life and Teaching, the first in any Indian language (August 1912). Of course a few months earlier in April 1912 Lala Hardayal wrote in English an article in Modern Review called "Karl Marx a "modern *rishi*



Martyrs of Delhi conspiracy case . Master Amir Chand Abodhbehari, Balmukund and memorial of Basanta Biswas (top to bottom from left)

The four martyrs of the Delhi Conspiracy Case (1913)

After 1911 the capital of India was transferred from Calcutta to Delhi. The new capital was formally inaugurated on 23rd December 1912 in a *Darbar* by the Viceroy Lord Hardinge. As the Viceroy was ceremonially entering Delhi riding on an elephant, a bomb was hurled at him near the Chandnichak. The Viceroy was seriously injured, the *mahoot* was killed. The real leader behind this conspiracy was the famous revolutionary Rashbehari Bose.

The following four persons were hanged in connection with this bomb throwing: Master Amir Chand (1869-1913), Abodh Behari (1889-1913), Bal Mukund (1889-1913) and Basanta Biswas.

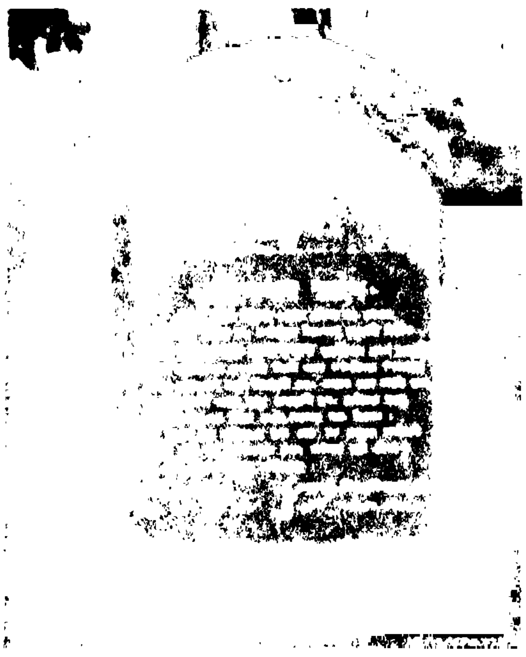
Nanigopal Mukherjee

He was a revolutionary from Chinsurah and a disciple of the famous revolutionary Jyotish Ghosh. He attempted to threw a bomb on the car of Denham, police chief in 1912 and was sentenced to 12 years R.I. He was only 16, yet he was shipped off to Andaman. As he refused to abide by any of the jail rules there, he was given all kind of barbarous punishment. He went on repeated hunger-strikes, allow for 150 days.

After release, Nanigopal went to Jamshedpur, organised the crane-drivers and brought about the first successful strike in the Tata Company. He was extended and came to Calcutta. There he joined the C.P.I. He made significant contributions to working class and peasant movement, as also to communist journalism (Jananayak).



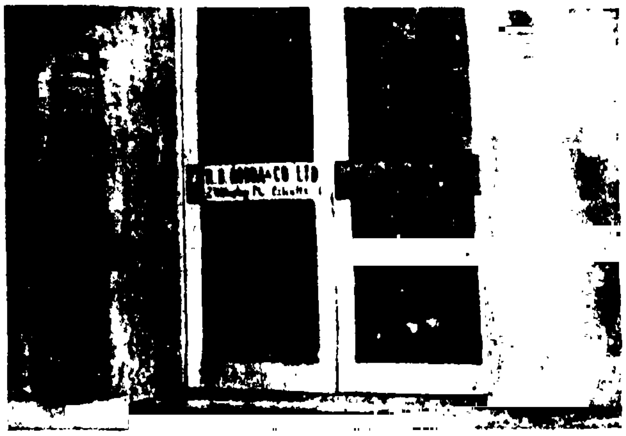
Nanigopal Mukherjee



In memory of Nanigopal

How the arms of Rodda Company came into the hands of the revolutionaries (26th August, 1914)

In 1897, a revolutionary organisation was set up in Central Calcutta called *Atmonnoti Samity* In1914,they together with the followers of *Mukti Sangha* of Dacca and Jugantar group of Barisal managed to secure 50 imported mauser pistols and a large number of bullets from the Roda Company of Dalhousie Square. For long years different revolutionary groups of Bengal used these arms in various clashes. In the Rowlatt report it was stated that this episode was one of the most important landmarks in the activities of the Bengal revolutionaries.



R B Rodda & Company

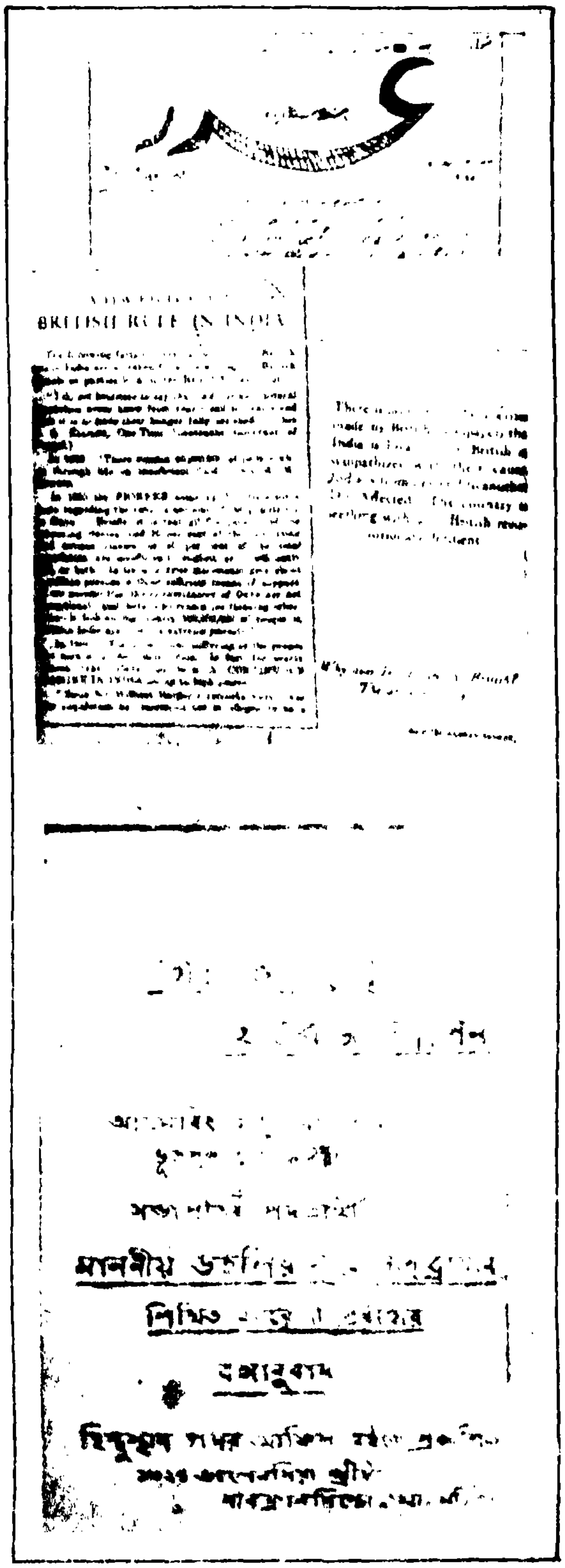
The birth of the Gadar Party and its Organ (1913)

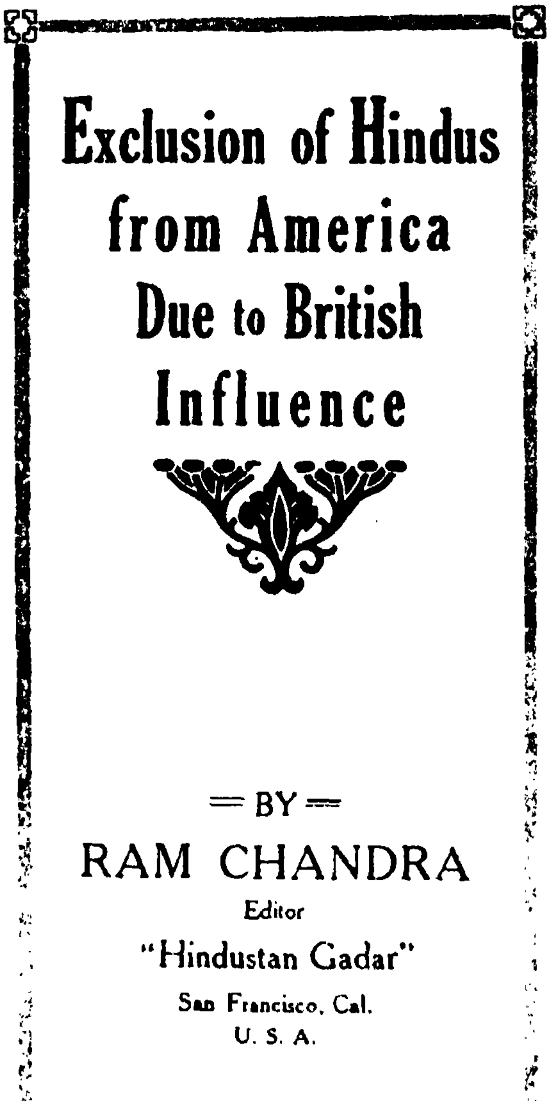
On 21st April, 1913, in the town of Antoria in the State of Oregon in U.S.A. a meeting of a large number of Indian revolutionaries abroad took place. Most of them were Sikhs. From there they decided to form a



"Gadr" Newspaper

revolutionary party and bring out a weekly journal. The name of the new weekly journal became Ghadr, but the revolutionary party was first named "Hindi Association of the Pacific Coast of America" But very soon, the party was renamed as the Hindustan Ghadr





Exclusion of Hindus from America Due to British Influence

= BY =

RAM CHANDRA

Editor

"Hindustan Gadar"

San Francisco, Cal.

U. S. A.

Party. The first President of the Ghadr Party was Sohan Singh Bhakna (1870-1968) and the General Secretary, Lala Hardayal (1884-1969) The weekly Ghadr was published both in Punjabi and in Urdu. Sometimes, it was also published in Marathi. The Party also published pamphlets in Bengali and English.

"Gadr Newspapers : In different languages



Sohan Singh Bhakna (President)



Lala Hardayal (Secretary)



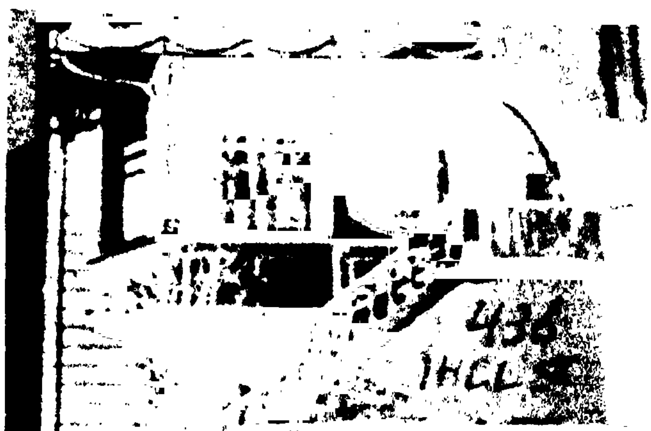
Taraknath Das



Pandurang Khankhoje



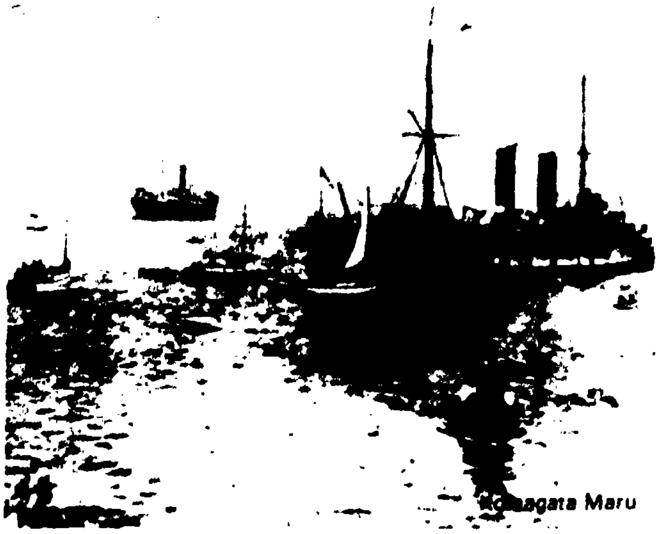
Bhagwan Singh



Office of Gadr Party at Sanfrancisco

Komagata Maru Episode (29th September, 1914)

Komagata Maru was a Japanese ship chartered by 400 Indian passengers, most of whom were Sikhs. The leader of the party was Baba Gurdit Singh. The ship reached the Port of Vancouver in Canada in the middle of 1914. Most of the passengers were looking for employment in Canada or U.S.A. Racism was rampant in both U.S.A. and Canada then. Hence the Canadian Government refused to allow the passengers to disembark. Food and water in the ship became



Komagata Maru

scrace and after a month the ship started back for India. On 29th September, 1914, the Komagata Maru reached Budge Budge. The police tried to arrest all the passengers for being connected with the Ghadr Party. A clash ensued. Twenty people were killed including a high British official. A number of passengers led by Baba Gurdit Singh fled and remained underground. The rest were sent as prisonars to various jails of Punjab. It is to be noted that most of the escaped sikhs including Baba Gurdit Singh got safe shelter at that time in the houses of the local residents of Budge Budge and of peasants in nearby villages.



A memorial of Komagata Maru at Budge Budge



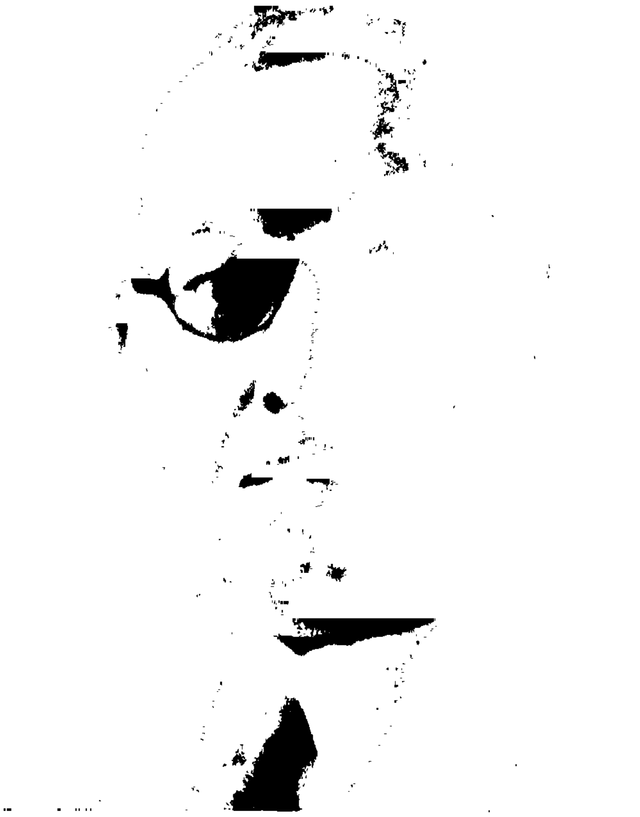
Gurdit Singh and other passengers on ship Komagata Maru at Vancuvar port

Rashbehari Bose (1886-1945)

Rashbehari Bose was a member of the *Anusilan Samity* of Calcutta and an intimate friend of Motilal Ray of Chandannagar. He successfully went underground after the attempt on the life of Viceroy Hardinge. During the 1st World War, he planned the great uprising of the Indian army and the date of that uprising was fixed on the 19th of February, 1915. A traitor leaked out the news to the British and the uprising was still born. On 12th May, 1915, Rashbehari left for Japan by sea in disguise. Among his close associates were Sachin Sanyal, Srish Ghosh, Nagendranath Dutta (Giriza Babu), etc. Rashbehari's role in Japan will be discussed at a proper place.



Baba Gurdit Singh



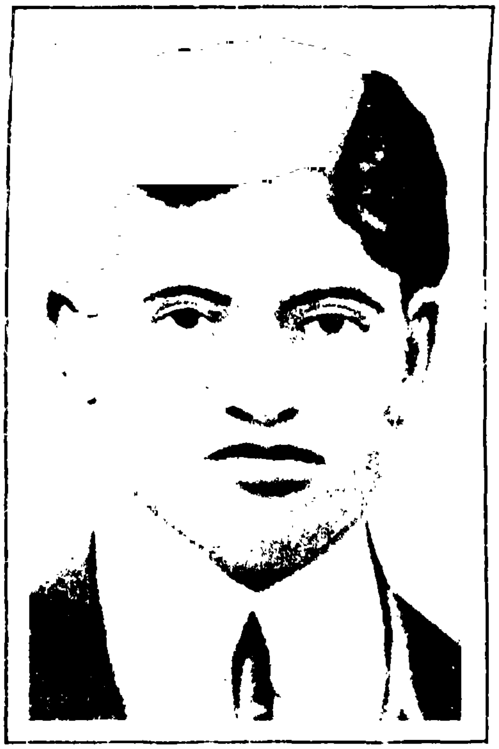
Rash Behari Bose



Sachindranath Sanyal



Kartar Singh Sarabha



Vishnu Genesh Pingle

The martyrs of the first Lahore Conspiracy Case (1915)

When the first World War started, Ghadr gave a call to all its members to go back to India and join the revolutionary struggle. Many of them responded to this call and tried to return to India. Sohan Singh Bhakna, President of the Ghadr Party, Bhai Jaila Singh, Keshab Singh, Harnam Singh, were arrested as soon as they landed in India but Kartar Singh Sarabha, Kanshi Ram Vishnu Ganesh Pingle, Prithvi Singh, Rahamat Ali, Nidhon Singh Chugha and others escaped and carried on the revolutionary struggle.

They came back with Rashbehari Bose and joined forces with him for the planned India-wide uprising on 19th February, 1915. When treachery sabotaged this plan, Kanshi Ram, Rahamat Ali and many others were killed in the clashes with the police and military. Many more were arrested and the first Lahore Conspiracy Case started.

In the main case, 24 were sentenced to death and 27 to transportation for long in the Andamans. There was country-wide protest against this savage sentence and 17 more had their death sentence commuted to transportation for long. Ultimately only 7 were hanged by the British. These 7 martyrs were Kartar Singh Sarabha (1894-1915)—this young hero was hanged on 16th November, 1915. Vishnu Ganesh Pingle was hanged on 17th November, 1915. Other five were Jagat Singh, Harnam Singh,(Seal Cot) Baxi Singh, Gilwali and two revolutionaries with the same name Marain Singh Gilwali.

All told 46 Ghadr became martyrs.



Dr Mathra Singh



Prithvi Singh Azad



Kehar Singh



Bhan Singh



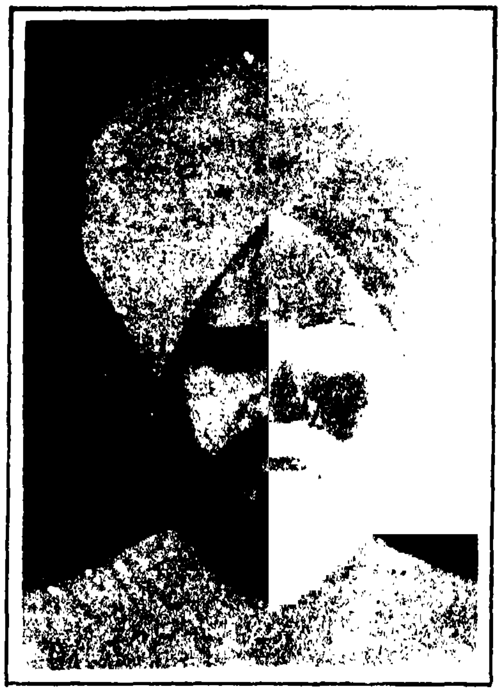
Jagat Ram



Harnam Singh (Sialkot)



Sohanlal Pathak



Budh Singh

Ghadr Revolutionary activities in South East Asia

Sohanlal Pathak (1883-1916) was executed in Mandalay Jail on 10th February, 1916, for anti-British activities in Burma, Malay and Singapore.

Budh Singh was executed in 1916 for anti-British activities in Siam.

Ramraksha was arrested for trying to spread ideas among Indian soldiers in Singapore. He was sent to Andamans in 1915. There the prison authorities tried to take away his sacred thread. In 1919, as a protest against this he went on hunger strike and died after three months.



Ramraksha

Revolt of the Indian Army at Singapore:

On 15th February, 1915, the first signs of revolt was noticed among the sepoys of the 5th Light Infantry of Singapore. All of them were Muslims of East Punjab & Rajputana. They were deeply influenced by the propaganda of the Ghadr Party and the anti-British Khilafat agitation.

Led by *Zamadar* Chisti Khan, *Subadar* Daud Khan and *Zamadar* Abdul Ali, the sepoys of the 5th Light Infantry revolted on the noon of 15th February, 1915, and shot dead their British officers. The revolt spread like wildfire in the city Singapore and most of the Port came under the control of the rebels. A group of 100 rebels attacked the Tonglin Barraque and killed the British officers and all the soldiers and released the German prisoners of War. For four days British rule did not exist in Singapore. But before the rebels could consolidate their victory, reinforcement of British and Japanese soldiers recaptured Singapore and carried out general massacre.

The trial in a Military Court started from the 23rd February. Out of 136 rebels, 27 were shot dead by a firing squad. 41 were given life sentence and all others were given long sentence. From 1890 carrying out death sentences in public had been banned, but death resumed now. The were rebels shot in front of the thousands of people.

One such eyewitness, Purna Chandra Chakraborty writes, "Many people had gathered to witness the sight. I saw a trench and on its other side 100 British soldiers were standing or kneeling in a half circle shape. 22 pillars and beyond the pillars a wall. On one side all the highly placed officers were waiting. Then the accused were brought. We heard that all of them were N.C.Os i.e. a Subadar Major, Subadar Zamadar and Habildar. On two sides were two British soldiers and in between the prisoner each prisoner was made to stand in front of a pillar. In their midst I saw a tall fair giant of a man. This was a Subadar Major Dandi Khan, leader of the revolt.

The British soldiers aimed their guns towards the prisoners. Prisoners also stood erect. Then the Court Order was loudly read out, first in Malay and then in Urdu and finally in English. At the end was declared:— Thus justice is done, then came the Order:— ready, fire! 100 rifles were fired together. Almost all fell down, only Dandi Khan still was standing. Again came Order, fire! Now all were killed including Dandi Khan. This Dandi Khan and his comrades had dreamt of a free India like us. They did not die in vain. But in India how few know of their noble martyrdom" (Purna Chandra Chakraborty: "Se juger agneo path", page 85-86).

From his exile in far-off Switzerland Lenin wrote in July 1916, "In the colonies quite a few revolts have taken place. Oppressive countries have tried to keep

this secret through military censorship. Still we have come to know that the British brutally suppressed one revolt of the Indian sepoys in Singapore, while the French and Germans have suppressed similar revolts in Annam and Cameroon" (Lenin Collected Works, English Edition, Vol. 29).



Bagha Jatin

Bagha Jatin(1879-1915)and his four immortal companions

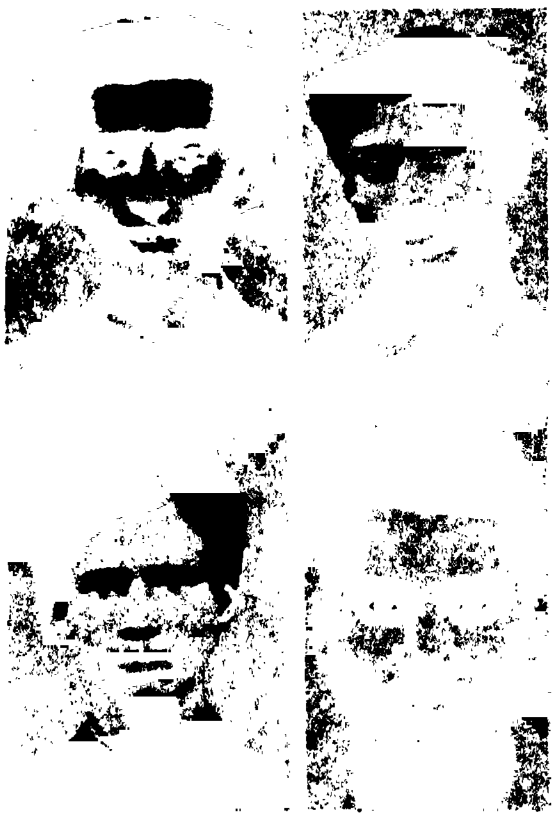
Jyotindranath Mukhopadhyay, better known as Bagha Jatin was the undisputed leader of the revolutionary Jugantar Party during the Ist World War. He made an elaborate plan to import arms from Germany to lead a revolt for liberating the country. The plan failed and from 9th September,1915,Bagha Jatin and his colleagues fought an unequal battle with a huge British forces in Chaskhand near Balasore. Jatin's comrade Chittapriya Roy (1894- 1915) was killed in the clash on the spot. Jatin himself was mortally wounded and died next day in the Balasore Hospital. Two other comrades, Nirendranath Dasgupta and Manoranjan Sengupta (1898-1915) were hanged by the British on 22nd November, 1950. The 5th figher Jatindra Chandra Pal was given life sentence. Torture in the jail made him insane and he died in Berhampore Jail on 4th December, 1924.



Bagha Jatin at death-bed

Among the close comrades of Bagha Jatin were Jadugopal Mukhopadhyay, Narendranath Bhattacharya (later on to become famous as M.N. Roy), Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyay, Bhupati Mazumder and others. Narendranath and Bhupati were deeply involved in the work of collection of German arms.

During the Ist World War, the revolutionary *Anusilan Samity* tried to organise revolt inside the Indian Armed Forces while the revolutionary Jugantar Party tried to organise revolt with the help of Germany. There was some co-ordination between the two like the Gouhati Armed Clash.



Chittapriya Roy, Manoranjan Sengupta, Nirendra Dasgupta, Jatindra Pal

Throughout India, the Anusilan Samity had united leadership and during the Ist World War, its unchallenged leader was Rashbehari Basu. Jugantar Party on the other hand was really a federation of many revolutionary groups like the Sankarmath of Barisal led by Swami Pragyanananda, the Atmonnoti Samity of Calcutta, led by Bipin Ganguly, the group led by Atul Ghosh and Professor Jyotish Ghosh, the Mukti Sangha led by Hem Ghosh (later known as Bengal Volunteers, Sri Sangha led by Anil Ray and Lila Ray the group led

by Purna Das of Madaripur and the groups led by Hemendra Kishore Acharya Chowdhury and Surendra Mohan Ghosh of Mymensing. The unquestioned leader of this federation was Bagha Jatin.

Two heroines during the Ist World War

Dukaribala Devi (1880-1970): Professor Jyotish Ghosh and Bipin Ganguly, disciple of Nibaran Ghatak, had an aunt named Dukaribala Devi. She kept Mausar Pistols and cartridges of Rodda Company hidden in her trunk in her own house. She was caught and sentenced to 2 and a half years rigorous imprisonment. She was the first lady to have been convicted for revolutionary activities.



Dukaribala Devi



Nanibala Devi

Nanibala Devi: She was the aunt of the famous revolutionary leader of Jugantar—Amarendranath Chattopadhyay. Among the revolutionaries, she was known as the *"Mejo Pishima"*. She was the incharge of the secret den of such revolutionaries was Amarendranath, Jadugopal and Atul Ghosh. In 1905, this devout widow of a Brahmin family unhesitatingly took the disguise of a wife of a prisoner interviewed with a prisoner in jail and learnt from him where Mausar pistols were to be found, i.e. how the Mausar pistols ultimately reached the revolutionaries. Later on the police came to know about it, arrested her and tortured ruthlessly. Yet the police was not able to get a single secret out of her. Nanibala Devi was the first and only woman detenue under the regulation III of 1818.



Virendranath Chattopadhyay

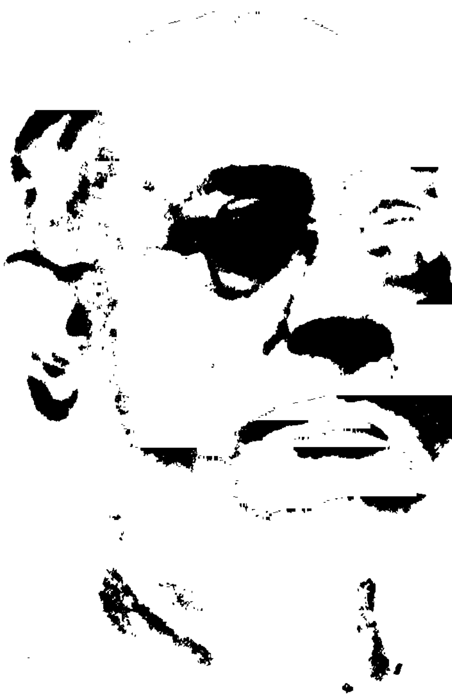
Berlin Committee (1915-1918) and the Provisional Independent Indian Government

Virendranath Chattopadhyay (1880-1943):

Virendranath came in contact with Krishna Verma and Madam Cama in England and France and through them joined the revolutionary movement. As soon as the Ist World War broke out, it was primarilly under his initiative that the Indian Independence Committee (Berlin Committee) was formed in Germany as the united organisation of all Indian revolutionaries. He became its first Secretary. Among the more famous revolutionaries who joined the Berlin Committee were Mahendra Protap Dr. Bhupendranath Dutta, Champakraman Pillai, Dr. Abinash Bhattacharya, Maulana Barkatullah, Dadachamji Kersasp, Promothonath Dutta, Jitendranath Lahiri and Birendranath Dasgupta. Virendranath was the main organiser of the world-wide anti-British revolutionary activities during the Ist World War.

The Berlin Committee on the one hand established contact with the Ghadr Party. On the other, they sent their members to the Middle East- to Constantinople, Baghdad, Iran and Afganisthan, to organise revolutionary activities.

In 1917, Virendranath went to Stockholm and in 1920-21, he went to Moscow. Next year, he returned to Germany and joined the German Communist Party. In 1927, he became one of the General Secretaries of the International organisation named League Against Imperialism. In 1932, when the Nazis became too powerful in Germany, he went away to the Soviet Union. He died their in 1943.



Bhupendranath Dutta

TO BHUPENDRA NATH DATTA[191]

Dear Comrade Datta,

I have read your thesis. We should not discuss about the social classes. I think we should abide by my thesis on colonial question. Gather statistical facts about Peasant leagues if they exist in India.

Yours...

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

Written on August 26, 1921

First published in 1952 in the book, Bhupendra Nath Datta, *Dialectics of Land-Economics of India*, Calcutta

Printed from the text of the book

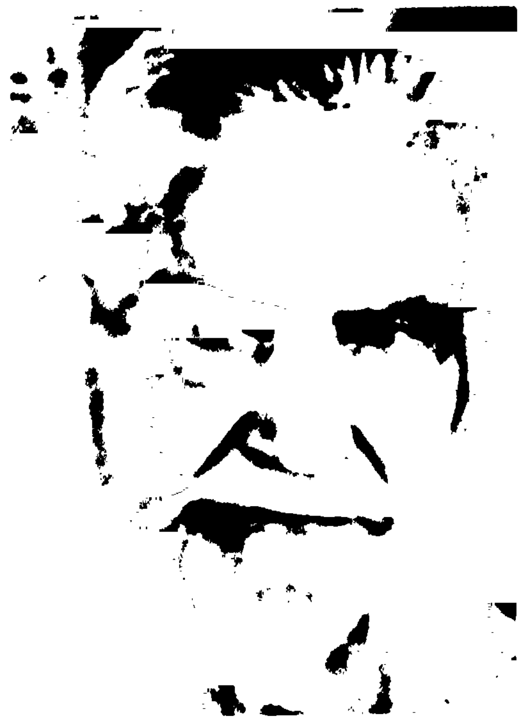
Lenin's letter to Dr Bhupen Dutta

Dr. Bhupendranath Dutta (1880-1961): In 1907 as the Editor of the Jugantar Patrika, he suffered imprisonment for one year. After his release, he escaped to U.S.A. As soon as the Ist World War broke out he came to Germany and joined the Berlin Committee. In 1916, he became the Secretary of the Committee. In 1921, accompanied by Virendranath Chattopadhyay and other members of the Berlin Committee, he went to Moscow. As a result of his correspondence with Lenin, he became a Marxist. In 1925, he returned to India, propagated Marxism and became a leading organiser of the workers and peasants' movements.



Provisional Free India Government President in the centre and Prime Minister 1st from left

Mahendra Protap (1886-1979): At the request of the Berlin Committee in 1915, Mahendra Protap went to Kabul as the leader of a German and Turk and Indian mission. In the same year, on Ist December, he set up a Provisional Free Indian Government in Kabul and became its President. On 7th May, 1919, he met Lenin as the leader of an Indian delegation consisting of 5 persons. After many years of exile he was allowed to return to India only when Jawaharlal Nehru became the Prime Minister of the Interim Govt. in 1946.

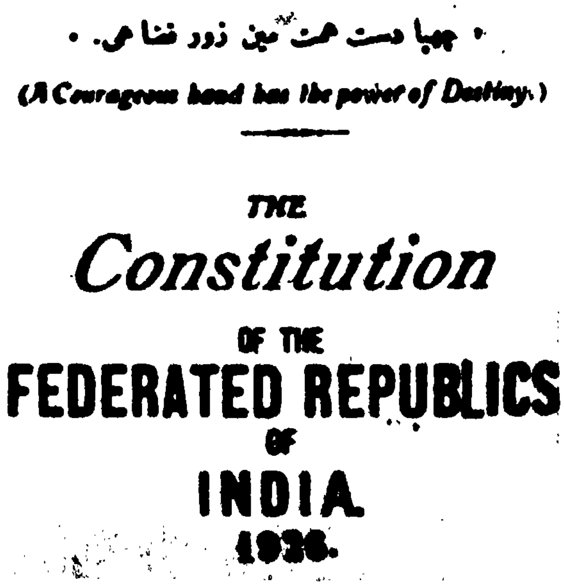


Mahendra Protap



Seal of the provisional Free India Government

Maulana Barkatullah, Bhupali (1859-1927): One of the tallest of the Ghadr Party Maulana Barkatullah also came to Germany and joined the Berlin Committee. In 1915, he ws a member of Mahendra Protap's mission to Kabul and became the Prime Minister of the Provisional Free Indian Government. He was also in the Indian delegation which met Lenin on 7th May, 1919. In 1927 in Brussels Conference of the League Against Imperialism, he was present together with Virendranath Chattopadhyay and Jawaharlal Nehru. In September 27, Maulana Barkatullah died in Sanfrancisco.



• چھپا دست ہمت میں زور قضا ہے •

(A Courageous hand has the power of Destiny.)

THE

Constitution

OF THE

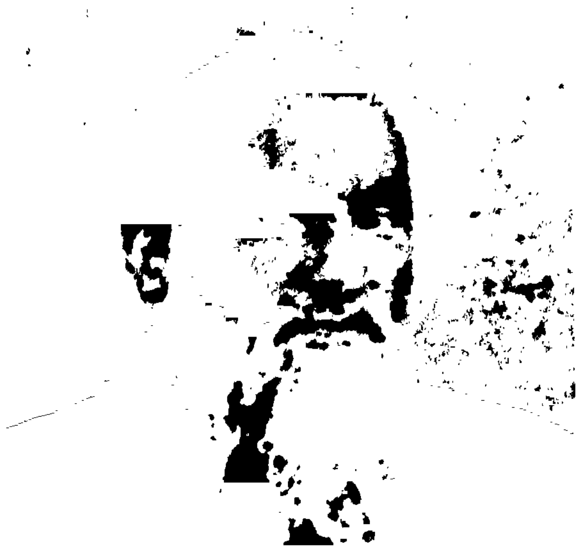
FEDERATED REPUBLICS

OF

INDIA

1936.

The constitution of free India



Obaidullah Sindhi

Maulana Obaidullah Sindhi (1872-1944): Maulana Obaidullah Sindhi was a teacher at Deobandh Centre of Islamic Studies. During the Ist World War, accompanied by only 15 students, he secretly left for Kabul. As they had declared *Jehad* against the British, they came to be known as Mujahid. Their aim was to rouse the entire Muslim world in a struggle against the British. He was not a member of the Berlin Committee. But from Kabul, he carried on secretly anti-British activities in India. But the British came to know it and started the Silk Letter Conspiracy case. On a charge of being involved in this conspiracy, the Principal of the Deobandh Institution Mahmudul Hassan was arrested at Macca by the British and during the War years he was kept detent in the Island of Malta. Maulana Obaidullah was appointed the Home Minister in the Provisional Free Indian Government at Kabul.



Barkatullah "Bhupali"

In 1922, Obaidullah took 10 Indian revolutionaries from Kabul to Tashkhand. From there they went to Moscow and attended classes at the University of the Toilers of the East.

In 1926, Maulana Obaidullah published a document called Constitution of Free India from Istambul. In his autobiography Jawaharlal Nehru has praised the document as an excellent effort to solve the complex communal problem in India.



Champak Raman Pillai

Dr. Champak Raman Pillai (1891-1934):

Dr. Pillai was an Engineer by profession, but obtained his Doctorate in Economics and Politics. In Switzerland he set up a Committee to advance cause of Indian Independence and later on joined the Berlin Committee. During the Ist World War a German Cruiser named Emden became famous for sinking many British Merchant ships. This Cruiser came to India and bombarded Madras. Dr. Pillai was a passenger in this Warship. After the War, he joined the German Nationalist Party. It is reported that his death in Berlin in May, 1934, was due to his sharp differences of opinion with Hitler.



After bombardment of Madras : Reception of Champak Raman, a passenger in this warship

Under the directive of Berlin Committee, Kedarnath, Basanta Singh, Promothanath Dutta and Dadachanji Kersasp went to Iran and other countries of West Asia. The Ghadr Party had already there two revolutionaries named Panduran Kankhoje and Agase. Moreover, the famous Indian revolutionary Sufi Amba Prosad was in Iran in 1909. They joined forces and tried to establish a direct link with India through Iran and if possible to capture Baluchistan with the help of an Indian volunteer army. By this time there Britsh troups in South Iran. Kedarnath was caught by them and was shot. Basant and Dadachanji Kersasp



Jitendranath Lahiri



Gulam Ambia Khan Luhani



Promothanath Dutta (Daud Ali)



Biren Dasgupta in disguise of Mirja Ali Hyder



Biren Dasgupta

were caught near the Afgan border and they too were shot. Under the pressure of the British Iranian Government handed over the aged AmbaProsad to the British who promptly hanged him.

However, Promothanath Dutta and Panduram Kankhoje raised an Indian Volunteer Army to help some revolutionaries and some of the Indian soldiers who were prisoners in the hand of the Turks With the help of this army they captured a part of Beluchistan and for a few months their revolutionary rule was established there. Then a huge British army counter attacked and the revolutionaries were defeated. They took shelter among the tribal people of the mountains. It was here that Promothanath Dutta came to be known as Daud Ali. While he was escaping, he was injured by a bullet. Both he and Kankhoje were caught twice by British troops, but were able to escape before a firing squad could kill them. In 1921, both crossed the border and went to the Soviet Union.

Manabendranath Ray (1887-1953)

Narendranath Bhattacharya, well known leader of the Jugantar Party left India for abroad during the Ist World War (1915) in search of German arms. He went to Japan and then to U.S.A.where he took the name of Manabendranath Ray. In 1917 when U.S.A. joined the War on the side of the Allies, he was arrested along with Ghadr revolutionaries. However, he obtained bail and together with his American wife, fled to Mexico. In Mexico Ray met the famous Russian Bolshevik Borodin. As a result of his influence Ray became a communist. In Mexico he was a founder first of socialist party and later of a communist party.



Five Indian revolutionaries were present in the 2nd Congress of Communist International

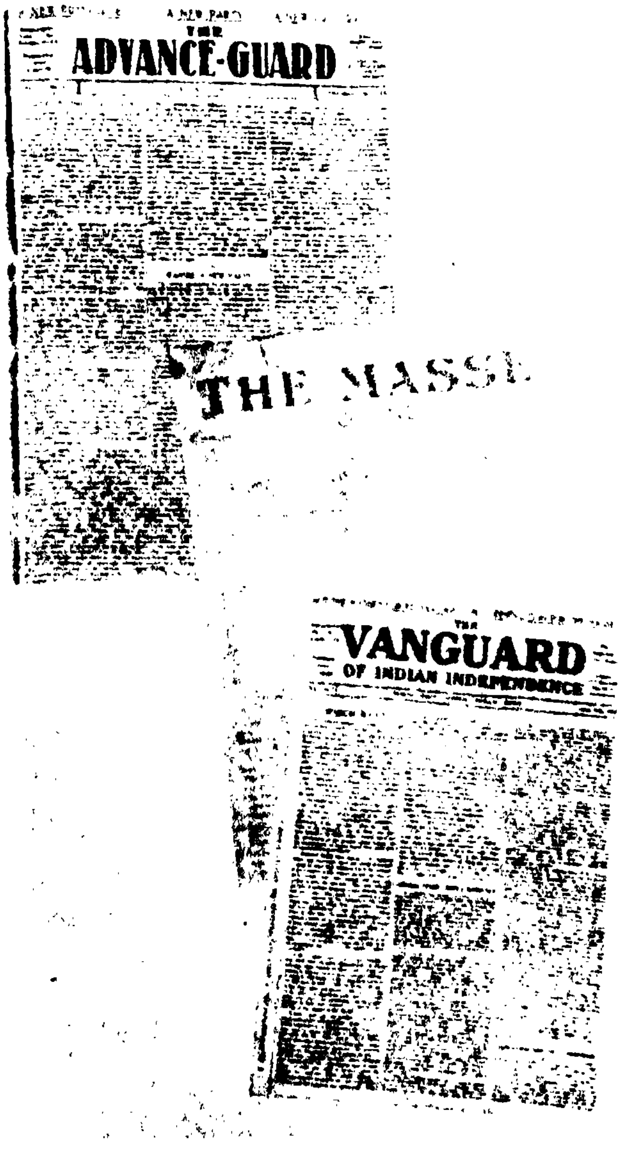


Manabendranath Ray

In 1920, approximately April, M.N. Ray reached Moscow. Under Lenin's advice he placed a supplementary thesis as complimentary to Lenin's thesis on the tactics to be followed by the revolutionaries of subjugated countries in the second Congress of the Communist International. Later on he was elected member of the Executive Committee of the Communist International.

Five Indian revolutionaries, who were members in the second Congress of the Communist International: Abani Mukherjee, Tirumal Acharya, M.N. Ray, Evelyn Ray and Md. Shafique.

Four English papers edited and published by Ray—Vanguard of Indian Independence (Fortnightly 1922), Advance Guard (Fortnightly 1922-23) and Vanguard (Fortnightly 1923) and Message of India (Monthly 1925-1928).



Three periodicals published by M.N. Ray from abroad

Impact of the Russian Revolution on Indian Writers

Subrahmanya Bharati (1882-1921):

"The mighty Goddess of power
Looked pleasantly towards Russia—
Revolution that ushered a new age there
With anguished cry, the oppressors have collapsed there
Gods are jubilant, with happiness and pride
While forces of evil are behind and listless
Oh! people of the world, look, look well at this unique new
All on a sudden everything is changed
Laws are being enacted for the welfare of man
In order to awaken the world they cry out: Their is the Raj of all mankind
There are no slaves any more, nor ill-gotten wealth to slavery
Like a shattered wall the present age lies on the ground
The golden age is about to come"
(New Russia, 1917)



Subrahmanya Bharati

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941):

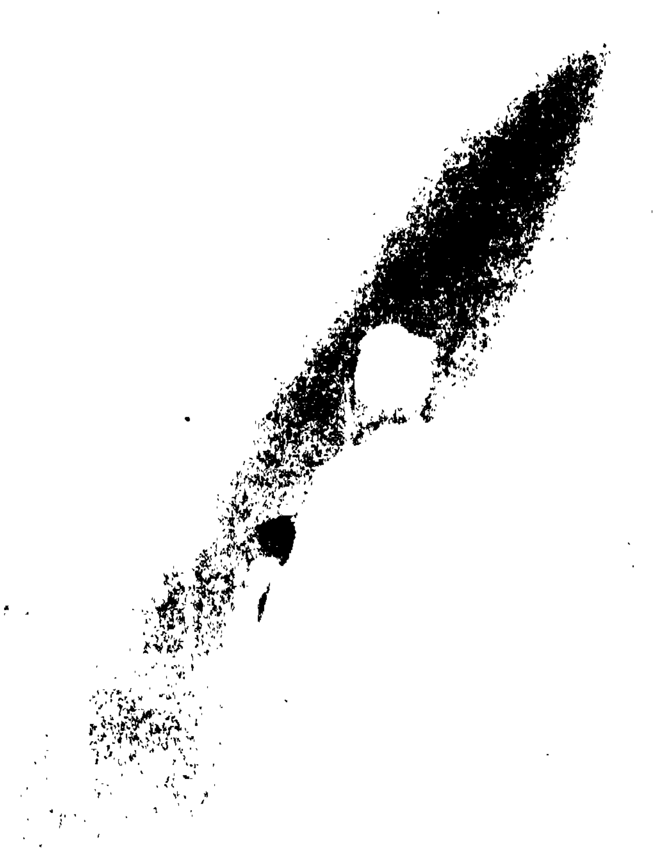
"We know very little of the present revolution in Russia and with the scanty materials in our hands, we can not be certain, if she in her tribulations is giving expression to man's indomitable soul against prosperity built upon nihilism... if she fails with the flag of true ideals in her hands, then her failure will fade like the morning star only to usher in the sunrise of the new age" (At the Crossroads Modern Review, July 1918).



Mohammad Iqbal



Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay



Rabindranath Tagore



Vallathol

Mohammad Iqbal (1875-1938):

Where's the homo sapiens to which thou art the God?
Is he the one who inhabits the planet under the skies?
Looking at them, I find the East governed by the whites of Europe
And glittering nothingnesses hold the West in bondage.
In spite of the much wonted light of its learning and art
Europe, in fact, is all darkness without any trace of the fount of life,
For the grandeur of architecture, design and glamour,
Indeed, buildings of churches are no match to the buildings of banks.
On the face of it, It's a form of trade In reality it is a gamble,
For, the profit earned by one, means instant death for many.
Meaningless is this knowledge, this wisdom this statesmanship, this system.
Which sucks the blood and talks of equality.
Unemployment, shamelessness, alcoholism and poverty.
These are the veritable achievements of Western Culture.
The nations which are denied the divine gifts
Can find the pinnacle of its glory only in electricity and steam.
The supremacy of the machine spells death for the heart and the mind,
Tools but always crush the fellow feeling.
Now, at last, one can discern some signs
Which portend the triumph of reason over fate.
The wisemen of yore are brooding over the fact
That the entire structure of their domain is shaken to the very foundation.
The glow that one finds on the faces by twilight
Is never real, it is either rouge or the handiwork of the glass and the bottle.
Thou art omnipotent and just, but in thy world
Hard and miserable are the days of the working people.
When is this ship of Capitalism going to be sunk,
God, thy world is waiting for the day of deliverance.

TO GOD FROM LENIN

Saratchandra Chattopadhyay (1876-1938)

"One complain which may be made is that the modern writer is no longer satisfied with portraying the colourless, happy-go-lucky lives of princes and feudal lords. They now want to reach down to the toilers. This is not a point to be regretted. Rather, when one writer, like their Russian counter-parts will be able to shake off all their ego and totally identify themselves with the down trodden of our society, then our literature shall win a lasting place in the world".

("Immorality in art and literature" 1924)

Vallathol (1878-1957)

....His eyes far-reaching into the future,
Have been closed,
As though pondering deep
on the world's welfare!
Lo! there lie on either side
Motionless both his hands
Hands that led up bravely this country
from deep, infernal sorrows.
Caused by the despotic rule
of Czar, the emperor!
None in sorrows, none idle
and no one illiterate.
Amongst your children
Five and twenty crores.
Men, women all live
equal with singleness of purpose;
your success oh, Russia
Is victory indeed!
(From "the Tomb of Lenin")



Nazrul Islam

Nazrul Islam (1898-1976):

The day of hope is coming—
Each day the debt has gone up,
It has to be repaid.
Those who broke down mountains by picks, shovels and hammers,
But whose bones lies strewn

Alongside to mountain road—
Those who are workers and toilers
And serve you well and true,
Those whose boides are full of dust
Because they carry your weight—
They are the real men,
They are the real gods—
I sing of them!
Now uprising comes
Through their trampled anguished hearts.........
If you hurt one man
It hurts the whole society.
An insult of one man
Is the insult to all mankind
Out of the sorrow of all mankind
We witness the rising of man.
Up above God is laughing
Down below Satan is trembling
(Kulimajur Samyobadi (1925)



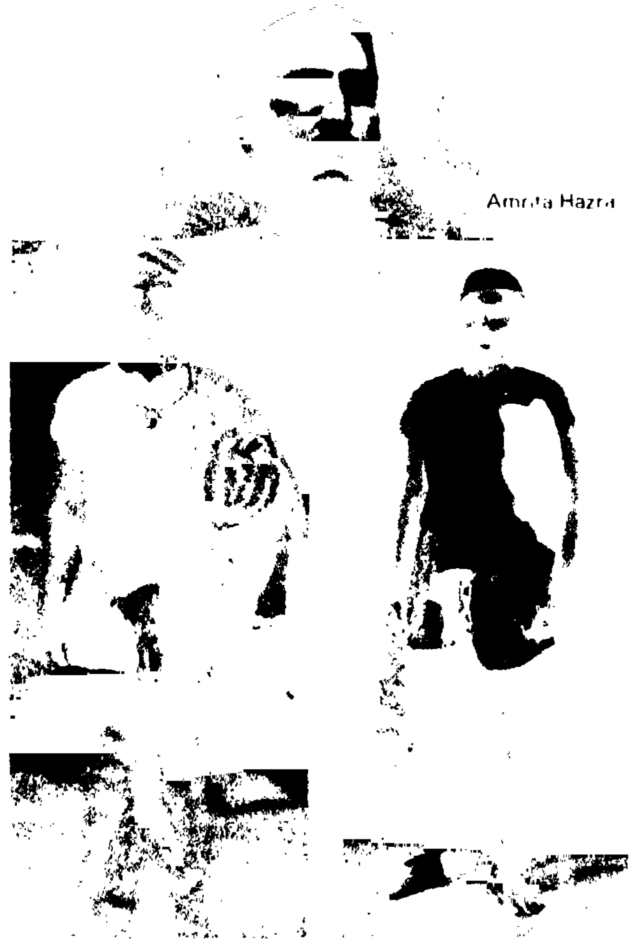
Premchand

Munshi Premchand

Greetings to the civilisation which does away with the capitalists and private property. Very soon the whole world is going to follow in its wake. Arguments that such a civilisation is inconsistent with the social set up or religion of this country or that, are absurd.

Buddhism was born in northern India but almost half the world pays homage to it now. Human society is basically the same the world over There may be small difference here and there but in fundamental respects there is no division in mankind as a whole The social, political system which is wholesome for our country, is wholesome for others as well. Capitalist civilisation and its hired minions will oppose such a civilisation with all its might, spread calumny against it, try to bluff the people and throw dust in their eyes but who can resist the onward march of truth. The victory is inevitable! — from "Mahajani Sabhyata" (1906)

— from "Mahajani Sabhyata"



Amrita Hazra

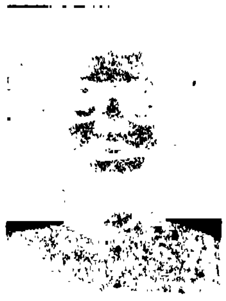
Pratul Ganguly

Madan Mohan Bhoumick

Three veteran Anushilan leaders in Andaman

Three veteran 'Anushilan' leaders in Andaman

Pratul Ganguly (1894-1957) Amrita (Sasanka) Hazra (1886-1973) Modanmohan Bhoumick (1884-1955)







Bepin Behari Ganguly Hemchandra Ghose Surendra Mohan Ghose







Swami Progyanananda Hemendra Kishore Acharyya Chowdhury Abinash Chakraborty

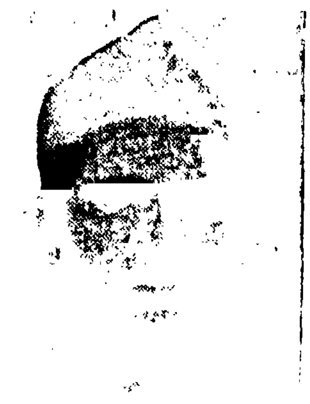
Some veteran 'Jugantar' leaders

Dr. Jadugopal Mukherjee, Bepin Behari Ganguly,
Prof. Jyotish Ghose, Swami Pragnanananda, Hemendra Kishore Acharyya Chowdhury,
Hem Ghose, Surendra Mohan Ghosh, Jibanlal Chattopadhyava



Dr Jadugopal Mukherjee, Jyotish Chandra Ghosh, Jibanlal Chottopadhyay Satindranath Sen





Tarini Mazumder Martyr Nalini Bagchi

The Rowlatt Report and its background:

During the Ist World War, British repression in India knew no bounds.

Even the moderate Home Ruler Annie Besant, Wadia and Arundale were arrested and interned.

Abul Kalam Azad, Editor of Al Helal, Mahammad Ali and his brother Saukat Ali, Editors of "Comrade" and Hasrat Mohani, famous Urdu poet and orator, all anti-British Muslim leaders, were kept in detention practically throughout the War. Nearly 3,000 detenues in Bengal.

Bholanath Chottopadhyay, Berhat Protap Singh and Nagendranath Dutta (Girijababu) were among the many martyrs who were tortured to death by the British inside prisons.



Bholanath Chottopadhyay
Barhat pratap Singh
Nagendranath Dutta (Girija Babu)

Such was the background when to suppress revolutionary and nationalist activities in India the British Rulers appointed a Commission headed by Justice Rowlatt. The report of the Commission was published in October, 1918. The report recommended draconic measures to suppress revolutionary activities and also suggested that the Defence of Realm Act should be continued even after the War. On the basis of this Report was passed the Rowlatt Act. It is but natural that Indian public opinion was furious against this Act.



Homerul interned three leaders

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

REVOLUTIONARY CONSPIRACIES

INDIA

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

LONDON
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1918

Anti Rowlatt Act, Satyagraha and the Jalianwallabag Massacre (13th April, 1919)

At the end of the War, the Montagu -Chelmsford Act was announced and this together with the Rowlatt Act thoroughly disillusioned Indian opinion and pushed them on to the path of *Satyagraha* movement. Sometimes before this Gandhiji had returned from South Africa and experimented with his Satyagraha movement in relation to workers and peasants problems at Champaran, Khera and Ahmedabad. However, it was only in April, 1919, that Gandhiji made his first appearance in the field of an all India movement. At his call an all India protest day was observed on the 6th of April, 1919. The police fired on popular public demonstration in Delhi and Bombay, killing many Hindu and Muslim alike. In protest, India witnessed unprecedented Hindu-Muslim united resistence.

MR. GANDHI ARRESTED

ORDER NOT TO ENTER THE PUNJAB OR DELHI!

TAKEN TO UNKNOWN DESTINATION!

HIS MESSAGE TO HIS COUNTRYMEN

"BLACK SUNDAY"

GREAT POPULAR DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE BLACK ACT.

Bombay Chronicle, 4 April 1919

The following is the Programme of the demonstrations which have been arranged for SUNDAY NEXT:

SUNDAY, 6th APRIL, 1919:—

SEA BATH 7 a. m. - 8 a. m. CHOWPATTY

PROCESSION 8-15, 10 a. m :—

Chowpatty Sea Face | Girgaum Back Road
Sandhurst Bridge | C. P. Tank Road
Sandhurst Road | Madhav Baug.

3-30-LADIES' MEETING, CHINA BAUG.

Mrs. Jayakar presiding.

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu ; Mahatma. Gandhi :- Speaker-

6-30 MASS MEETING - FRENCH BRIDGE.

If you value your freedom you will join.

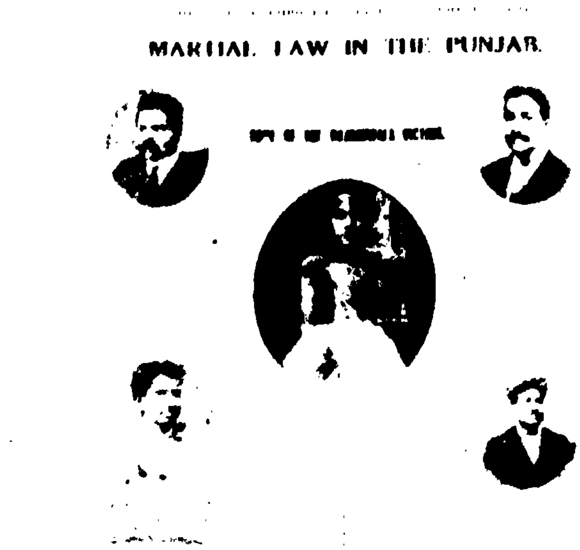
A pamphlet in protest meeting of Bombay



Al Helal periodical



'Al Helal' and editor Abul Kalam Azad (Azad is not found on picture)



Martial law enforced in Punjab

It is in connection with such mass protest in Punjab that the Jalianwallabag massacre took place on 13th April, 1919. At Amritsar, high-walled' garden, known as Jalianwallabag, had only one gate for entry and exit. The Punjab Governor, Michael O.Dwyer had declared Marshal Law in Punjab. Under his orders, General Dyar closed the entry-exit gate, put his Machine-guns there and asked the soldiers to fire till the last bullet. Nearly, 2,500 men, women and children were killed and injured. Punjab was dislinked from the rest of India and for a whole month, the British continued a reign of terror.

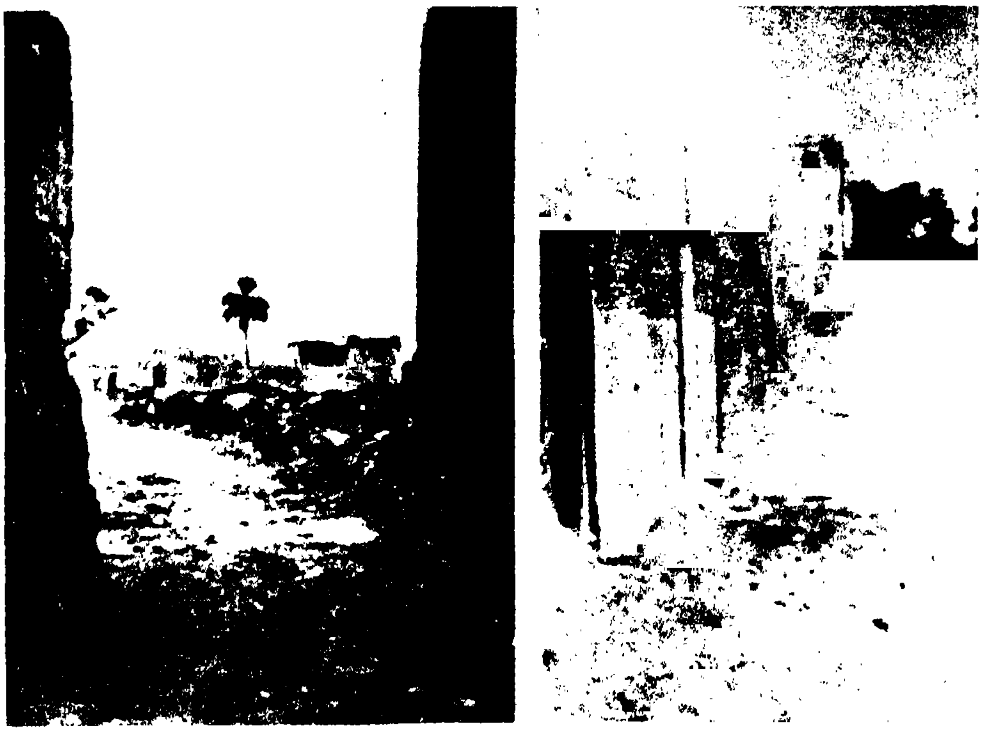
General Dyar regretted that the gate was so narrow that he could not take an armoured car inside the compound.



Dr Saifuddin Kichlu



Dr Satyapal



The entrance to "Jalianwala Bagh"

It was alleged that in this lane the English lady was insulted by the nationalists.

On these pleas every inmate of this lane—men, women, oldmen, children were forced to crawl the entire lane at bayonet point.

In a town called Kaisur, a gallows was put up on the public highway and whoever was suspected was kept detained in an open space hour after hour in the heat of May and June.

Lenin also referred to this massacre in the Session of the 3rd Congress of the Communist International in 1921 (22nd June to 12th July):

"The toiling people of the colonial and the semi-colonial countries who constituted over-whelming majority of the world's population have awakened to political consciousness in the demanding of the 20th Century.....at their head stands India and revolution is becoming impending there. On the one hand, we witness there growth of industries, railways, and the numerical strength of the Proletariat, on the other, we see the outbreak of repeated massacres (Amritsar). The British are resorting to a reign of terror including such atrocities as public whipping."
(Lenin: Collected Works, Volume XXXII).



Whipping in public on the main road



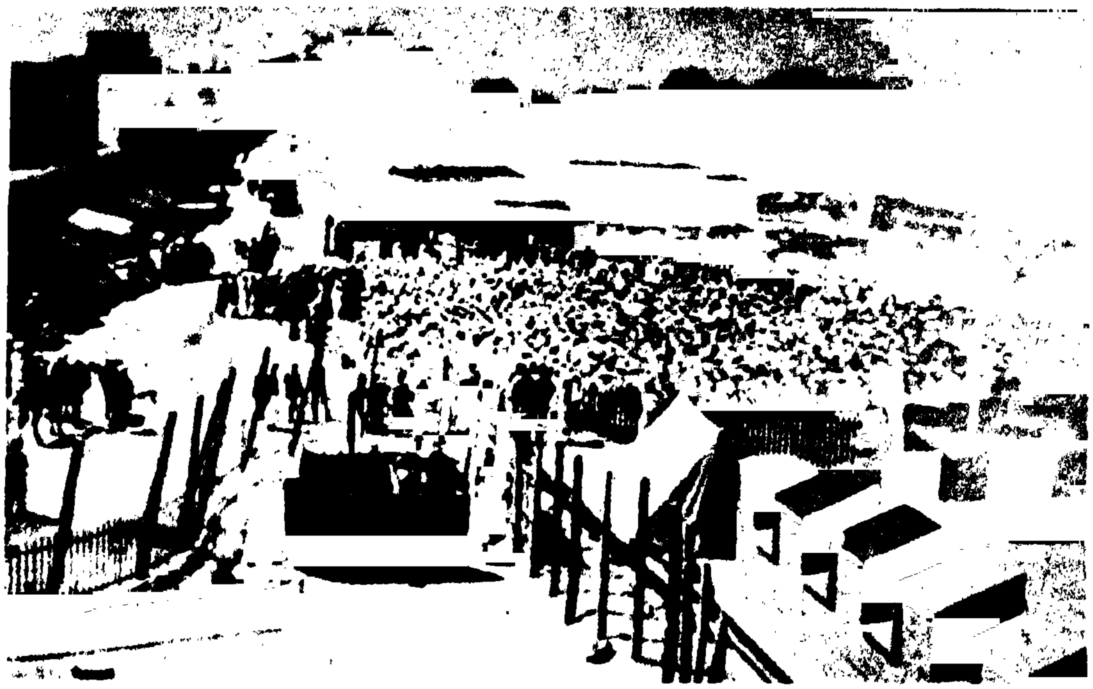
Gallows



Crawling Lane



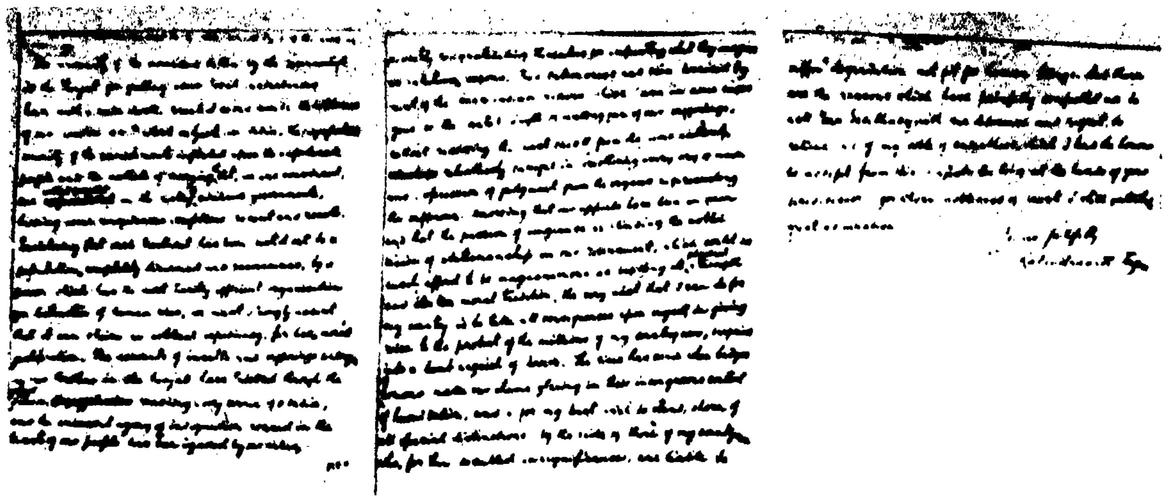
Crawling Lane : a Punjabi oldman is tortured



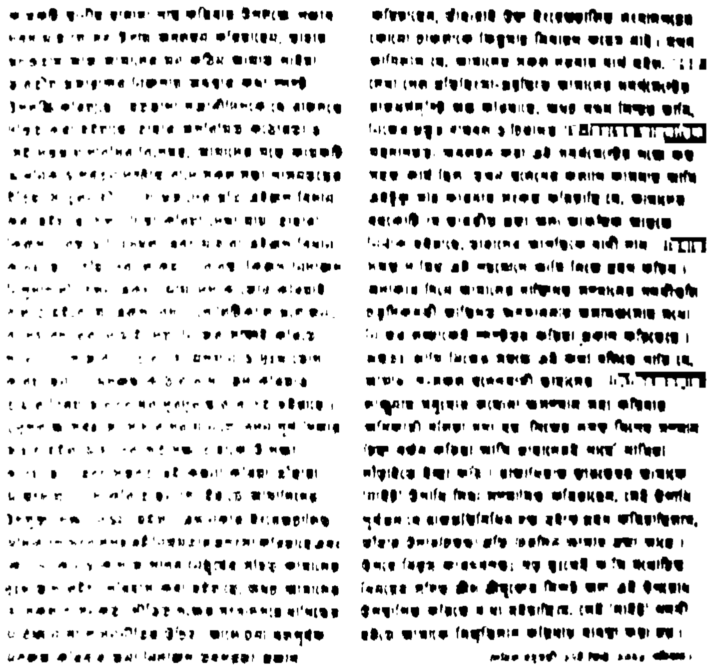
Suspected were kept detained in the open space in kaisur



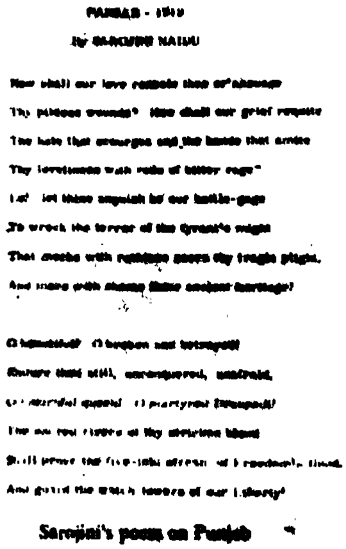
Police atrocity in the village of Punjab



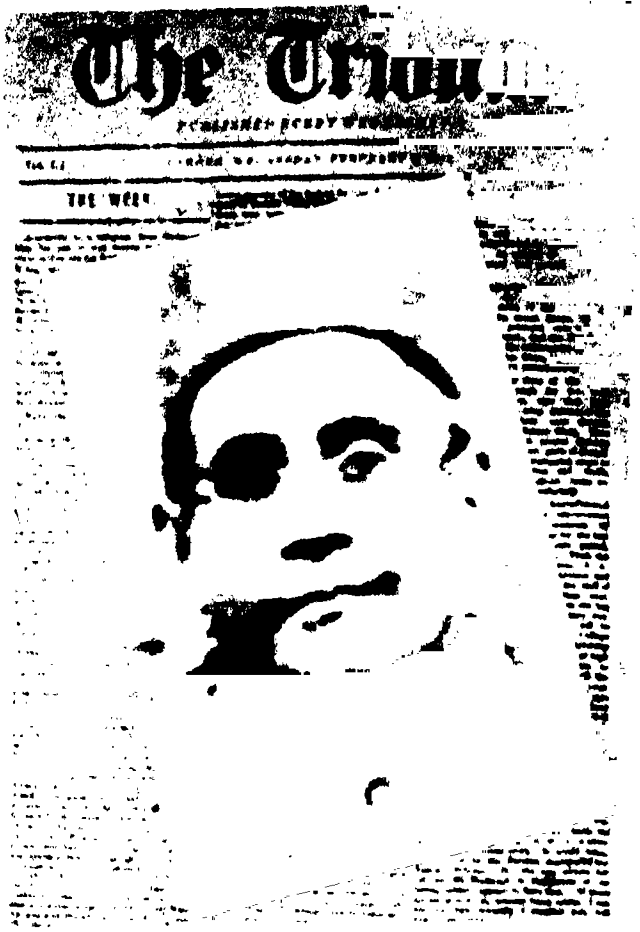
The original English version and the poet's own Bengali translation of the famous letter that Rabindranath wrote to the Viceroy renouncing his Knighthood as a protest against the *Jalianwallabag massacre*



Bengali translation by poet



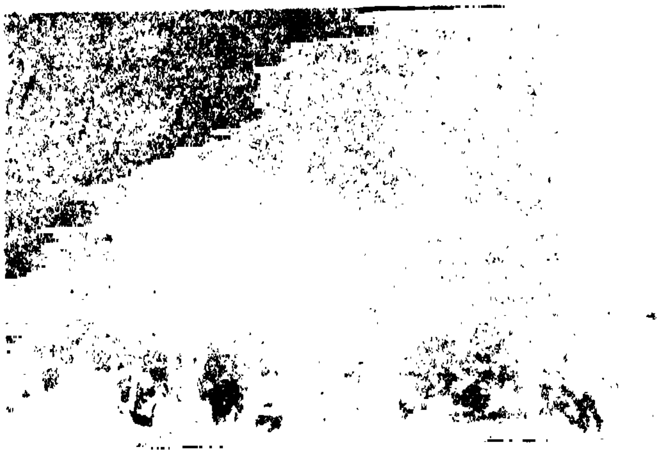
Sarojini Naidu's poem "Punjab 1919" recited in the Amritsar Session of the Congress, 1919.



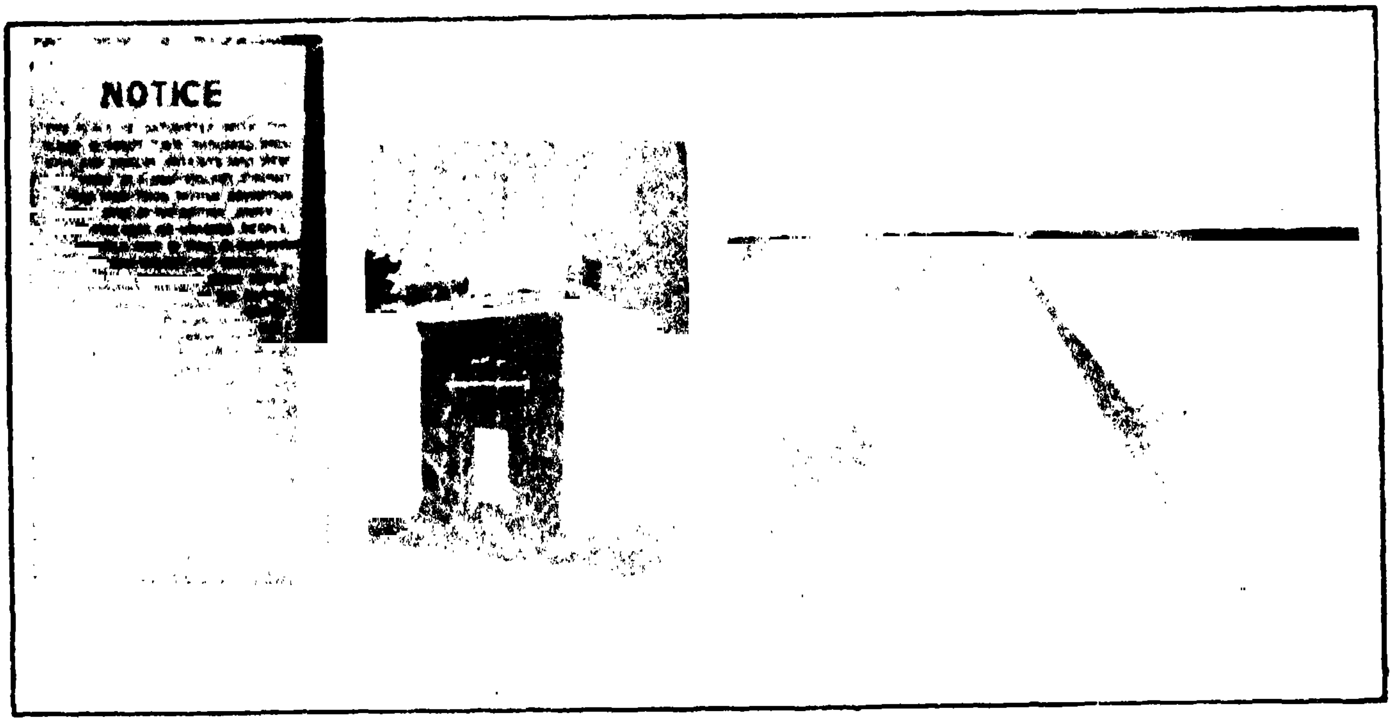
Kalinath Roy, editor of "The Tribune" newspaper convicted



B.G. Horniman, correspondent of "Bombay Cronicle" was banished from Punjab



Firing spotted wall of Jalianwalla Bagh



A martyrs memorial column and plaque at Jalianwalla Bagh



Lajpat Rai, President of the All India Trade Union Congress

The birth of the All India Trade Union Congress (1920)

On 30th October, 1920, the Ist session of All India Trade Union Congress took place at Bombay presided over by Lala Lajpat Rai. From all over India, 806 delegates participated. They represented 60 affiliated and 40 sympathetic unions who had a total membership of 5 lakh workers. The session of the Congress continued till 2nd November.

In his presidential address Lajpat Rai said "Militarism and imperialism are the twin children of capitalism; they are one in three all three in one. Their shadow their fruit and their bark, all are poisonous. It is only lately that an antidote has been discovered and that antidote is organised labour... The workers of Europe and America have now discovered that the cause of the workers is one and the same all the world over, and at their head stand the Russian workers whose aim is the establishment of proletarian dictatorship.

"For us truth is no longer truth, it is qualified by capitalism and imperialism on the one hand and socialism on the other. It is either capitalistic or bourgeoise or socialistic... my own experience of Europe and America leads me to think that socialistic, even Bolshevik truth is in any day better, more reliable and more human than capitalistic and imperialistic truth."

TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD

The first Trade Union Congress of India opened its sessions at the Empire Theatre Bombay, on Sunday, 31 October, 1920, amid scenes of great enthusiasm. The theatre was crowded to its utmost capacity by delegates and visitors. The delegates who came from different parts of the country were present in large numbers representing practically all branches of labour in India. The attendance of members of the different trade unions in Bombay was, of course, the largest but representatives of labour in other parts of the country were also present in good numbers. And the members of the general public also attended in large number. The space reserved for visitors was fully occupied. The platform was equally crowded with members of the Reception Committee and other well known citizens.

AITUC Fifty years, Documents, Vol. I Introduction

FROM THE MANIFESTO TO THE WORKERS OF INDIA 1920

'Workers of India!

'The time has come for you to assert your right as arbiters of your country's destiny. You cannot stand aloof from the stream of national life. You cannot refuse to face the events that are making history today for India. You are the mass of the population. Every movement on the political chess-board, every step in the financial or economical arrangements of your country, affects you more than it affects any other class. You must become conscious of your responsibilities. You must understand your rights. You must prepare yourselves to realize your destiny.

'Workers of India! the earth is your common heritage. It is not specially reserved for professional politicians or the Simla bureaucrats, or the millowning plutocrats. Your national leaders ask for SWARAJ, you may not let them leave you out of the reckoning. Political freedom to you is of no worth without economic freedom. You cannot therefore afford to neglect the movement for national freedom. You are part and parcel of that movement. You will neglect it only at the peril of your liberty...

D. Chaman Lall
General Secretary
All India Trade Union Congress

Tribune and its editor
Kalinath Roy



B P Wadia



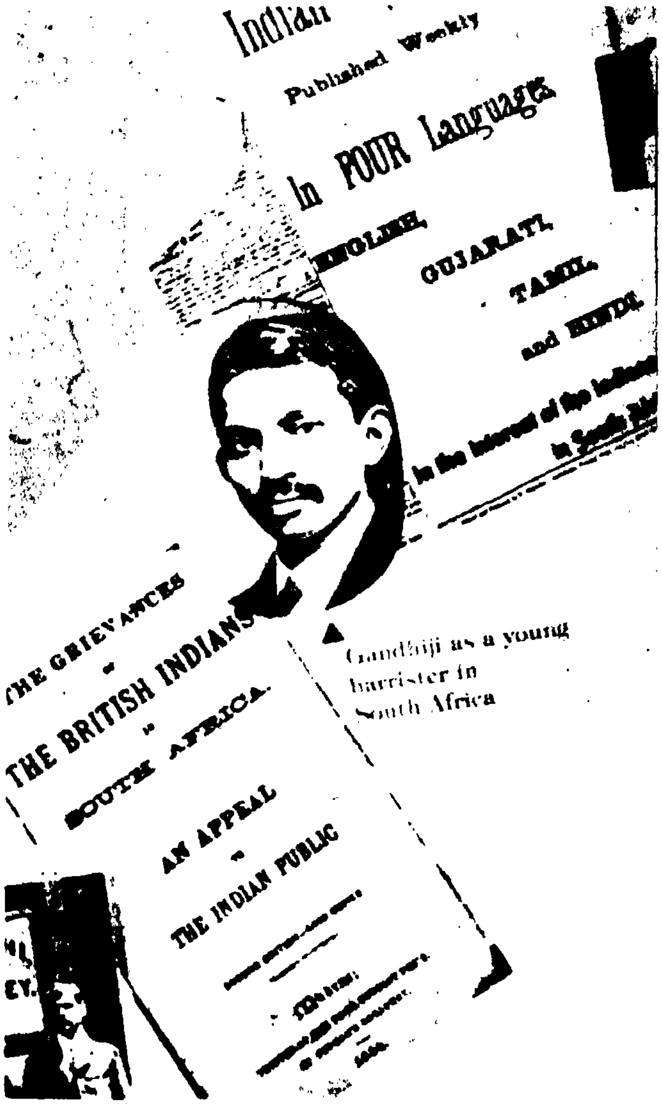


Chakkarai Chettiar — V.Kalyan Sundaram

A few trade union leaders of the early stage



N M Joshi



Gandhiji in South Africa



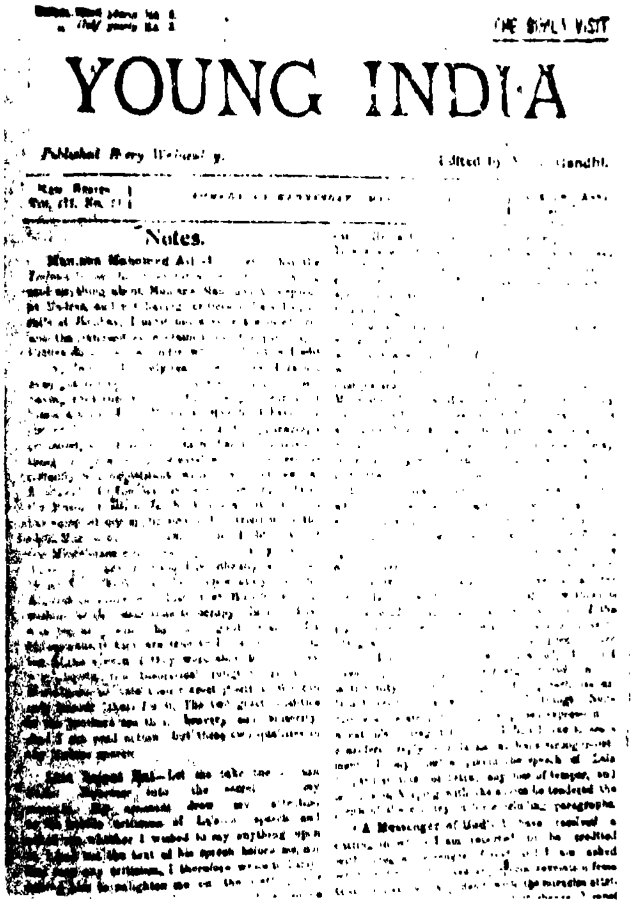
Gandhiji taken to Champaran by Raj Kumar Sukla

The Non-Co-operation Movement led by Gandhiji (1920-1922)

As a protest against the Punjab massacre and the repression connected with the Rowlatt Act agitation as also on the demand of the Khilafat (which was anti-British in character) a special session of the Indian National Congress was held in Calcutta in September, 1920 and the annual session was held at Nagpur in December, 1920. After this the Non-Co-operation Movement started under Gandhiji's leadership



Moving of the non co operation movement resolution by Gandhiji at Nagpur



YOUNG INDIA

Notes.

Gandhiji's newspaper "Young India"

Strike in Assam Tea gardens,the Assam Bengal Railway and the Dock and Port areas (1921):

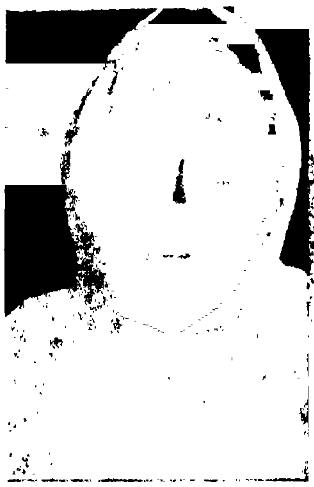
The labourers of the tea gardens of Assam had so long tolerated the ruthless oppression of the planters more or less without protest. Now they were awakened by Gandhiji's Non-Co-operation Movement and started an agitation for going back to their native areas. The Railway and Shipping authorities obstructed them in many ways. In spite of that, they reached Chandpur. There at the dead of night Gurkha soldiers attacked them and seriously injured many. In protest, there were strikes in the Assam-Bengal Railway and among Dock and Port workers. To break up the strike, ruthless repression was carried on and Congress volunteers were also not spared.The well-known Congress leader, J.M. Sengupta personally led the working class General Strike and it remained firm even after his arrest.



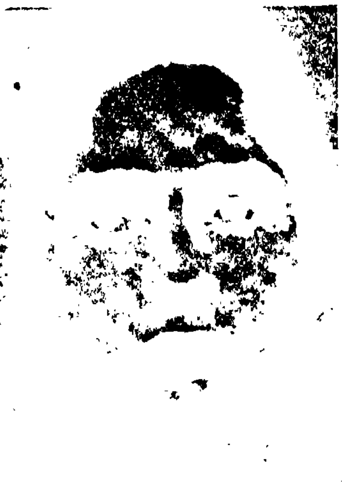
Jatindra Mohan Sengupta



The workers have gone on Strike Protesting against the oppression in Tea Gardens



Mohini Devi



Basanti Davi





Padmamini Ammal



Bai Amma



Basanti Devi

Women Leader



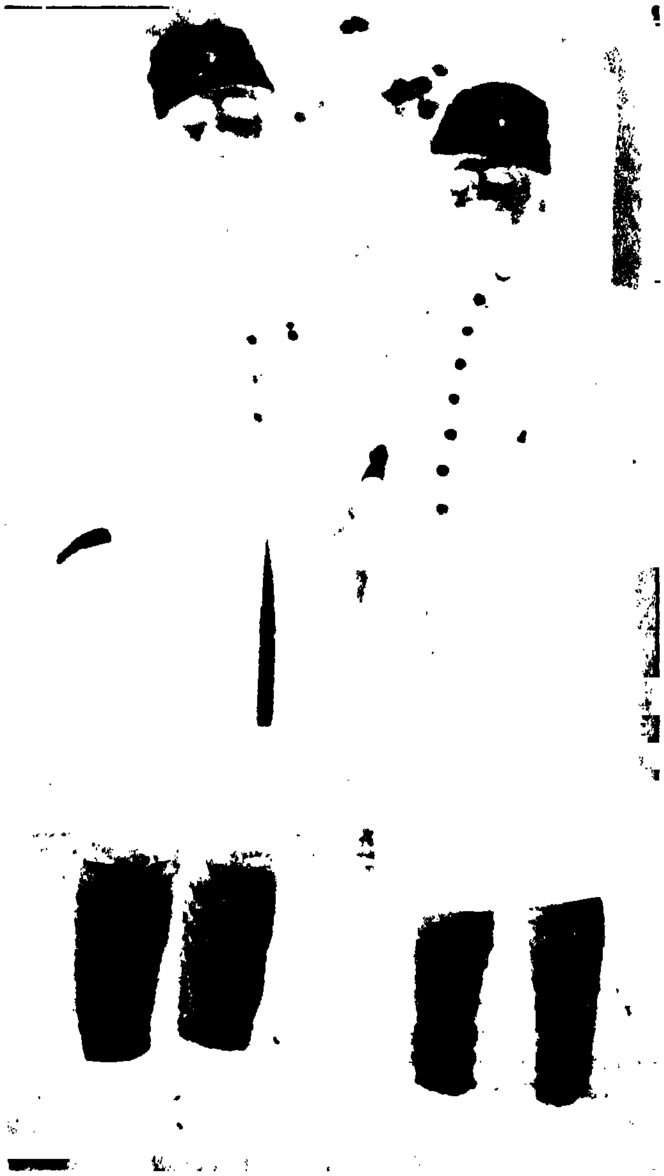
Women picketers courting arrest in Bombay



Women volunteers corps of Khilafat and non-co-operation movement



The demonstration in the street of Calcutta by the volunteers corps of the non-co-operation movement



Saukat Ali and Mohmmad Ali



Khilafat volunteers corps

Two leftwing leaders raised

Raising of the resolution of complete independence for the first time in the Ahmedabad Congress session of 1921 Maulana Hasrat Mohani and Swami Kumaranand. Both of them were communists.



Moving the resolution of complete independence for the first time in Ahmedabad Congress by Moulana Hasrat Mohani



Swami Kumarananda supports the resolution

The well known boycott movement in Contai Sub Division of the district of Midnapore (1921)

In Contai sub-division in the district of Midnapore, the famous popular leader Biren Sasmal organised popular unrest against the proposed attempt to form Union Boards and gave powerful expression to their discontent, through the call of a massive boycott. The Government reiterated and confiscated properties of peasants and arrested thousands too. The Central Congress leadershipdid not support the movement but the struggle went on led by Biren Sasmal. It became so powerful by December, 1921, that the order to set up Union Board in the sub-division of Contai was ultimately withdrawn.



Biren Sasmal



Mohammad Ali, Jagatguru Sankaracharya, Saukat Ali (bottom) Saifuddin Kichlu

Prince of Wales' tour of India and the protest "Hartal" at Bombay and Calcutta (1921)

On 17th December, 1921, the Prince of Wales arrived at Bombay and the Congress gave a call for protest '*Hartal*. The demonstrators clashed with the police and blood flowed freely on the streets of Bombay.

On the 24th December, on the streets of Calcutta, Basanti Devi and Urmila Devi, wife and younger sister respectively of Deshbandhu were arrested while propagating against the visit of the Prince of Wales. Throughout India thousands were arrested including national leaders and the Congress and Khilafat volunteer Corps were declared illegal.



Photos of Moplas who have become permanent residents

at Andamans after serving life sentences there.



Ali Musalia as prisoner



The Moplas settled permanently after serving fourteen years of imprisonment in Andaman



The Mopla uprising in Malabar (1921-22)

The Congress and Khilafat movement was organised in massive proportion in the Malabar district of Kerala. The majority of population of most of the *Talukas* of that district were Mopla muslims. They were mostly poor peasants or Jenmis (Bonded labour) while the landlords were mostly Hindus. Before 1921, the British rulers had almost always turned the anger of Mopla peasants into communal lines and defeated them. This time Mahatma Gandhi and Maulana Saukat Ali jointly toured Kerala and propagated for *Swaraj* and Khilafat. The response was tremendous and Khilafat committees were formed almost everywhere.

In August, 1921, the police issued rule 144 in the two Talukas of Ernad and Valluvamad, because these two were strongholds of the Moplas. The police also tried to arrest on 20th August 1921, the Secretary of the Ernad Khilafat Committee. The Moplas resisted this arrest with swords and spears. Led by the Police Superintendent of Ernad, a huge police party forcibly entered the Tirurangadi *Masjid*. At once, the protest movement spread like wild fire and took the character of a mass rebellion. The Moplas captured police *thanas* one after another, looted Government treasury and burnt official documents in the courts and the Registry offices. Led by desperate rebel leaders like Ali

Musaliar, the Mopla rebellion tookunprecedented form. According to historians of the Congress movement in Kerala by 28th August, 1921, the British rule totally collapsed in the areas of Malappuras , Tirurangadi, Sazeri and Perinthalmanna. Historian Roland Miller wrote that while British controlled the main cities, the entire rural area of Malabar was completely controlled by the Mopla rebels for 3 whole months. More than a million people in 220 sub-districts were involved in this mass uprising.

The British Government invoked Marshal Law to crush the rebellion. Then started the reign of terror. An instance is the episode of 19th November, 1921. On that day in a small compartment of a train, 122 Moplas were packed like Sardines and were taken to Coimbatore, 90 miles away. At Coimbatore, when the door of the compartment were opened, it was found that 64 prisoners had been suffocated to death. All told at least 10,000 Moplas were killed in the name of crushing down the rebellion and 3,000 more were sentenced to transportation for life and shipped off to the Andamans. Except the revolt of 1857 and the Santhal revolt prior to that so many people had never been killed by the British in any other single movement. Many Hindus has also participated in the Mopla rebellion. No Hindu leader or even leaders of the joint movement were allowed to enter the area during the rebellion. Among the Ist 46 Mopla rebels given life sentences, side by side with Maid Maulavi, Mahammad Abdul Rahman and Hassan Koya were one Namboodri, one Menon, one Nayar and Narayan-Menon, Madhaba Nabi



Abdul Majid

Muhajirin movement and the Peshwar Conspiracy Case (1920-1923)

Under the impact of the Khilafat movement, nearly one lakh Indian muslims did the **Hijrat** (leaving native land conquered by enemy to go abroad to gather strength and went to Afganisthan). There they came in contact with the Provisional Independent Indian Government led by Mahendra Protap and many became revolutionaries. And a few crossed the Amudaria and went to the Soviet Union to secure



Saukat Usmani



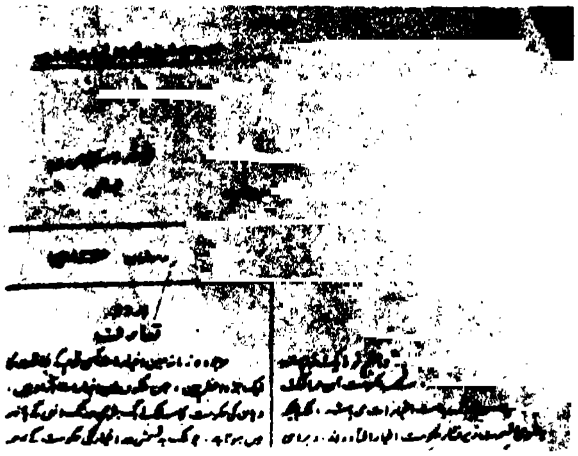
Mian Akbar Shah



Rafique Ahmed

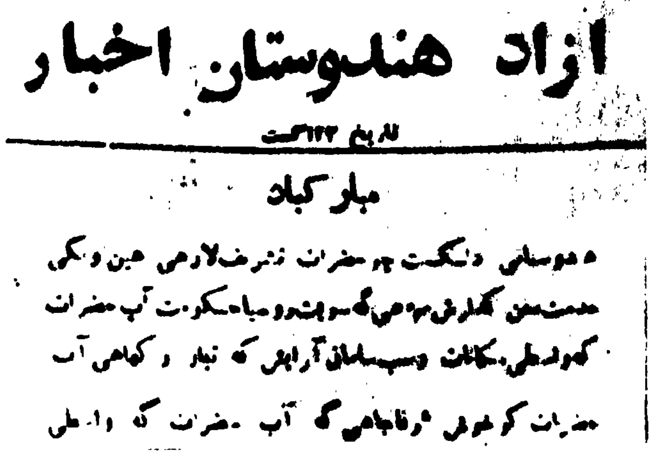
support the for anti-British movement in India. This movement is known in history as the Muhajirin Movement.

In the Soviet Union, they attended class at the Tashkhand Academy and later on at the University of the Toilers of the East at Moscow. After completing education some crossed the Hindukush mountain, others went to Persia in their efforts to return to India. Almost all of them were arrested in the borders of India and they were all tried and convicted, in four consecutive Peshwar Bolshevik Conspiracy cases. They received various sentences, from one year to 10 years imprisonment.



Newspaper "Zamindar"

Two newspapers published in 1920 by Muhajirin revolutionaries from Tashkhand and Baku—"Zamindar" in Urdu and Persian from Tashkhand



ازاد هندوستان اخبار

مبارکباد

Azad Hindustan Akhbar (In Urdu from Baku)



Fazal Ilahi Qurban



Abdul Karim Nazir Siddiqui

Two Muhazirins who became pilots at Taskhand

Among these Muhajirin revolutionaries were Abdul Majid (later on accused in the Meerut Conspiracy Case), Saukat Usmani (convicted first in the Kanpur and then in the Meerut Conspiracy cases), Mia Akbar Shah, Rafiique Ahmed and Fazal Elahi Qurban.

Newspapers that spread socialism in India (the earliest phase)

The "Socialist"—published from Bombay, English weekly edited by Sripad Amrit Dange (1922).



'Langal' Bengali weekly



Muzaffar Ahmed



S A Dange

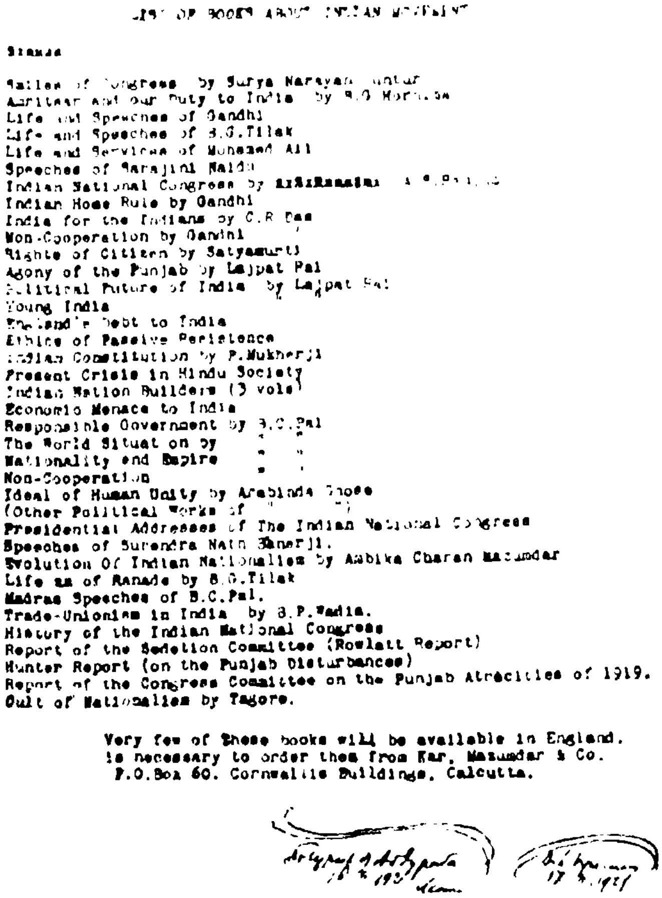


Singaravelu Chettiar



Soldiers of Indian Army who joined the Red Army

List of book on national movement in Lenin library



LIST OF BOOKS ABOUT INDIAN MOVEMENT

Stamas

Sailes of Congress by Surya Narayan Guntur
Amritsar and our Duty to India by B.G Horniman
Life and Speeches of Gandhi
Life and Speeches of B.G.Tilak
Life and Services of Mohamed Ali
Speeches of Sarajini Naidu
Indian National Congress by ~~xxxxxxxx~~ A.C.Pal
Indian Home Rule by Gandhi
India for the Indians by C.R Das
Non-Cooperation by Gandhi
Rights of Citizen by Satyamurti
Agony of the Punjab by Lajpat Rai
Political Future of India by Lajpat Rai
Young India
England's Debt to India
Ethics of Passive Resistence
Indian Constitution by P.Mukherji
Present Crisis in Hindu Society
Indian Nation Builders (3 vols)
Economic Menace to India
Responsible Government by B.C.Pal
The World Situation by " "
Nationality and Empire " "
Non-Cooperation " "
Ideal of Human Unity by Arabinda Ghose
(Other Political Works of " ")
Presidential Addresses of The Indian National Congress
Speeches of Surendra Nath Banerji.
Evolution Of Indian Nationalism by Ambika Charan Mazumdar
Life ~~xx~~ of Ranade by B.G.Tilak
Madras Speeches of B.C.Pal.
Trade-Unionism in India by B.P.Wadia.
History of the Indian National Congress
Report of the Sedetion Committee (Rowlatt Report)
Hunter Report (on the Punjab Disturbances)
Report of the Congress Committee on the Punjab Atrocities of 1919.
Cult of Nationalism by Tagore.

Very few of these books will be available in England.
is necessary to order them from Kar, Masumdar & Co.
P.O.Box 60. Cornwallis Buildings, Calcutta.

Abdal Rab Peshwari prepared this list on request of Lenin

Fifteen books from the list are in Lenin's Library

"Inquilab" Urdu weekly published from Lahore and edited by Golam Hussain (1922).

"Labour Kishan Gazette" Englishi fortnightly from Madras, edited by Singara Velu Chettiar (1923).

"Langal"—Bengli weekly published from Calcutta by Muzaffer Ahmed and Nazrul Islam (December, 1925).

"Kirti"—Punjab an Urdu monthly published from Amritsar and edited by Santokh Singh and after his death by Sohan Singh Josh (1926-27).

Peasant uprising at Chauri Chaura (1922)

On 5th February, 1922, the police officer of Chauri Chaura in Gorokhpur district of U.P. publicly insulted Bhawan Ahir, an Ex-soldier and leader of the local peasants volunteer corps of the Congress-Khilafat movements. The infuriated people attacked the police. In the police firing many peasants were killed, but the *thana* was burnt down and 22 policemen including the officer lost their lives. The volunteers had deviated from the path of non-violence—on this plea the supreme leader of the movement Gandhiji suspended the India-wide Non-Co-operation movement. From jail Chittaranjan, Motilal Nehru, Lajpat Rai, Subhas Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru and others protested. Gandhiji remained firm in his decision.

225 peasants were tried on the charge of murdering 22 policemen. At first 172 of them were sentenced to death. However, ultimately, only 19 were hanged and the rest were given life sentences and sent to Andamans. From abroad M.N. Roy and the E.C. of the Communist International sharply condemned these brutal sentences, but we have no knowledge of any other protest against this savage act of repression by the British. Moreover, there is a memorial plaque of the 22 policemen killed at Chauri Chaura but there is as yet no plaque or memorial column for the peasant

Death Sentence Confirmed Against the Following Nineteen.

1. Abdullah s/o Dukhi
25. Bhagwan s/o Ram Nath, Ahir
28 Bikram
40. Dudhai s/o Samjhawan
83. Kali Charan
93. Lal Mohd.
96. Santoo
102. Mahadeo s/o Kunjbihari
112. Meghu alias Lalbihari s/o Janki
127. Nazar Ali
146. Raghubir s/o Jaddu
143. Ram Lagan s/o Sheo Tahal
167. Ramroop s/o Ram Tahal
175. Rudali
181 Sukhdeo s/o Jathu
182. Sampat s/o Jint
183. Sampat s/o Mehru
201. Shayam Sunder
202. Sita Ram

Transportation for Life (List 'A' of Fourteen men).

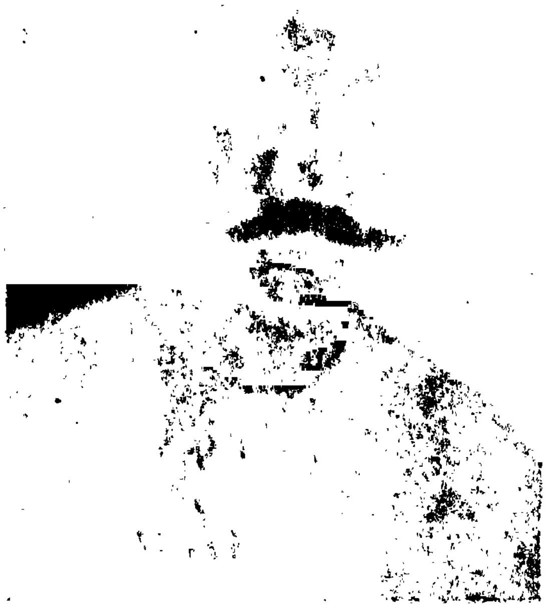
No. 26 Bhagwan Das
32 Bishnath
41 Chingi
49 Dawarka s/o Nand Pd.
109 Mauraj
135 Pansha
153 Ram Das
19 Shankar
48 Dwarka s/o Naipal
214 Tapri
225 Ugrah
196 Sheodhar
206 Sukhraj
220 Tirthraj

Martyrs fo Chouri Choura List of death sentence on left and life sentence on right



Communist leader Jharkande Rai with martyrs family members of Chouri Choura

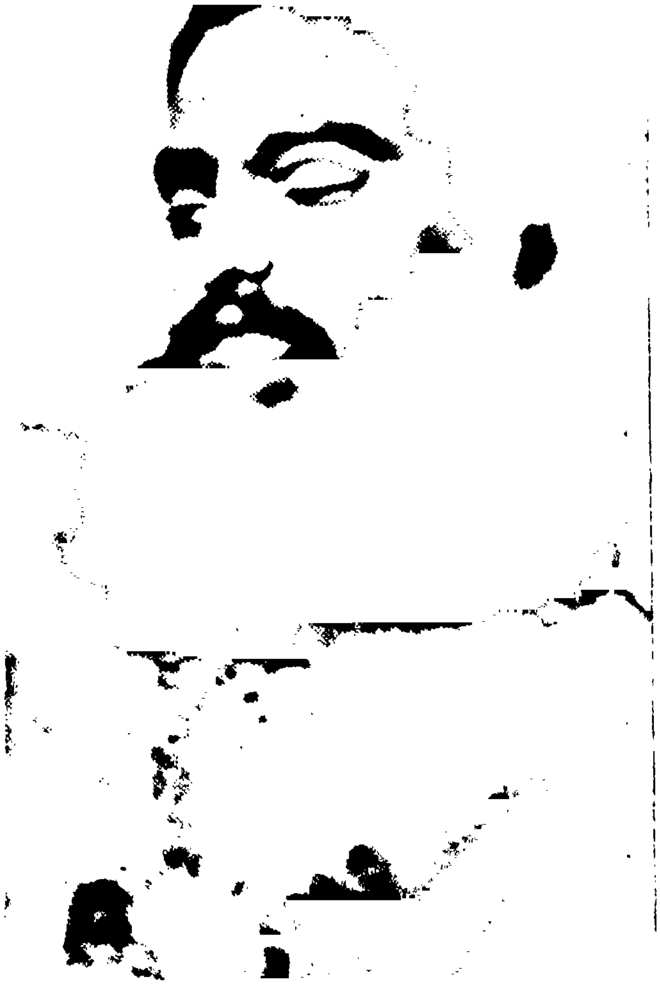
martyrs of Chauri Chaura. It has also to be remembered that not a single Congress leader came forward to defend the accused of the Chauri Chaura episode.



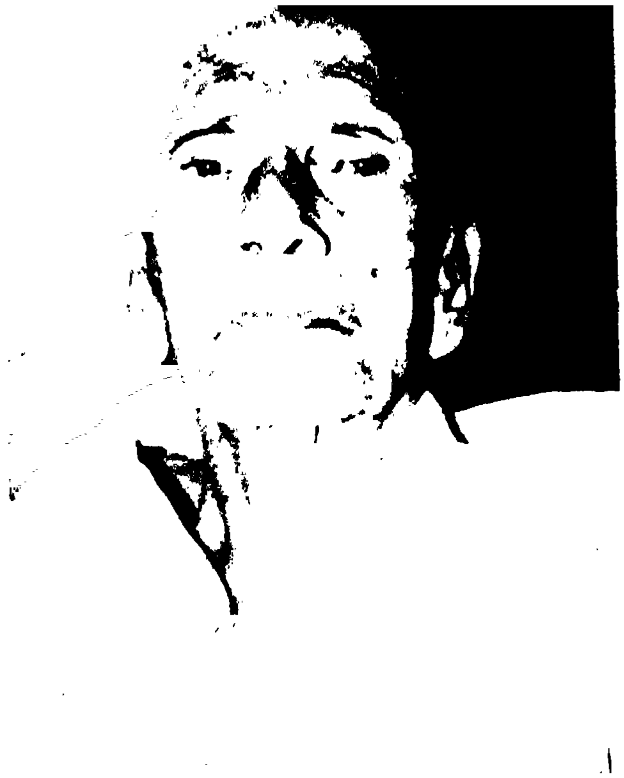
Dwarka Prosad Pande

Alluri Sitaram Raju (1897-1923) and the Rampa uprising (1922-1924)

In the Rampa sub-division of Andhra Pradesh, a movement started in June, 1922, under the leadership of Alluri Sitaram Raju. The mainstay of this movement was the local tribal population. Raju was an honest saintly person respected by all people of the area and he had tried to stop the oppression of the poor tribals by Government officers through many appeals and petitions. However, all these efforts met with no response. Then he secretly organised a force of 300 peasant and tribal youth and then in lightening attacks captured one police *thana* after another and took away their arms. Government declared a reward of Rs. 15,000/- for his capture dead or alive. Even then, the rural poor helped him and his followers through various ways.



Alluri Sitaram Raju

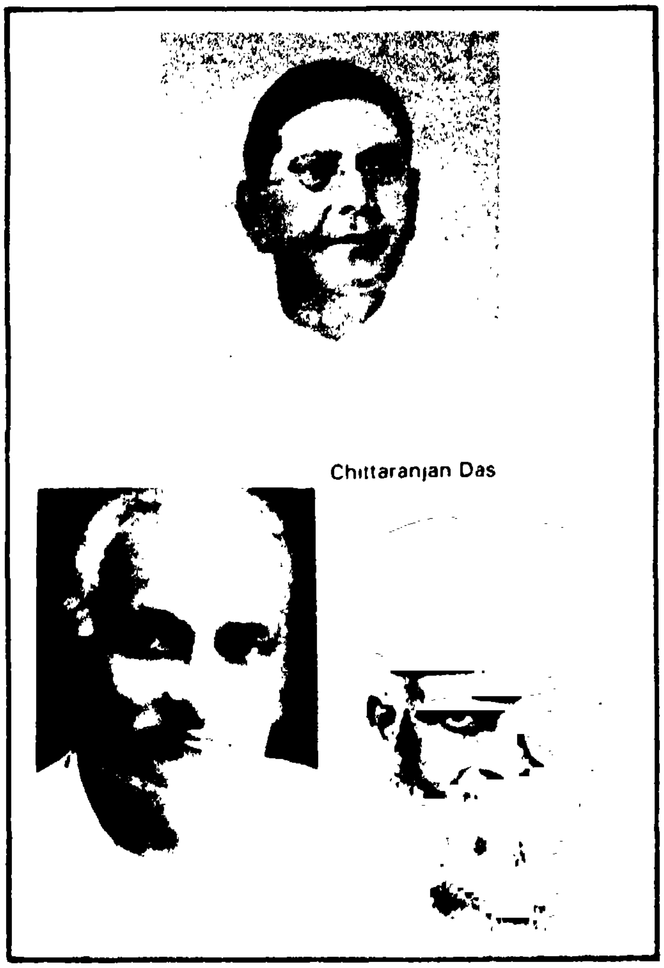


Bonangi Pandu Paral

On 23rd September, 1922, in Gujrighat Alluri Sitaram Raju destroyed an army contingent with two British Commanders Scot and Heiter. His attack totally disrupted the transport, telephone and telegraph system. On 30th September in yet another attack, he and his followers totally destroyed the police barrack in Goodsey.

Then a huge British army armed with machine-guns and lewis-guns came to fight him. Still the struggle continued for another 6 months. On 7th May, 1924, Alluri Sitaram Raju was arrested by the British and they immediately shot him dead. His co-fighters, Gandam Cora, Yexder Parol and others were also killed by the British. Many were given life sentences and sent to Andamans. Of them, Bonangi Pandu Parol after his release stayed in the Andamans. He died there early in 1974.

Alluri Sitaram Raju after he had been killed by bullets. Bonangi Pandu Parol after his release in the Andamans.



Chittaranjan Das

Motilal Nehru Vithalbhai Patel

Three distinguished leaders of Swarajya Party

The rise of the Swarajya Party (1923)

Sharp differences of opinion arose among the Congress leaders after the sudden withdrawal of the Non-Co-operation movement. Eminent leaders like Deshabandhu Chittaranjan Das, Motilal Nehru and Vithalbhai Patel declared that Non-Co- operation movement should now be given up and the Congress should join the Legislatures, in order to wreck the Montagu-Chemsford Reform Constitution from within In December, 1922, C.R.Das was the President of the Indian National Congress at its Gaya Session. Although his resolution was defeated, In March, 1923, he, Motilal Nehru and others formed the Swarajya Party to contest the next election due in November. They and their followers came to be known as pro-changer and their opponents as no-changer. Ultimately, there was a compromise that the Swarajya Party would contest election, but others who differed, would do constructive work through such bodies as All India Khadi Board.

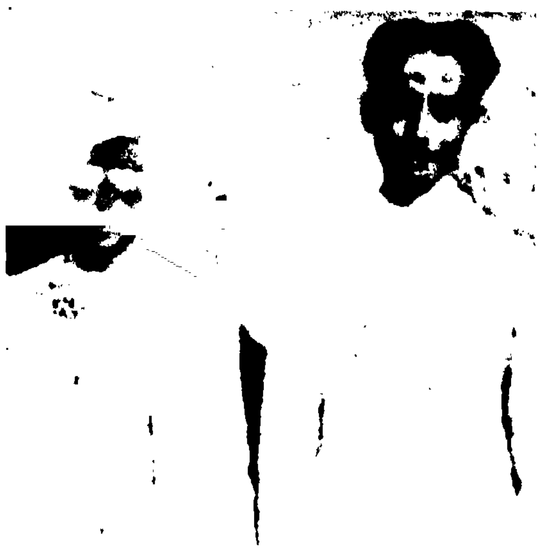
In June, 1924, two resolutions moved by Gandhiji in the A.I.C.C. Session were defeated. The defeated resolutions were

(a) that if any office bearer of the Congress joins the Legislative Council then he would have to resign from that office. Moreover, another resolution moved by Gandhiji condemned Gopinath Saha who had been hanged for attempting to murder Charles Tegart, Commissioner of Police could win by an extremely narrow margins by 78 to 70 votes. Gandhiji characterised it as his moral defeat. In any case, ultimately Gandhiji agreed that members of Swarajya Party would function as the Legislative wing of the Congress. In the elections, Swarajya Party won significant victory in Bengal, Madhya Predesh etc.

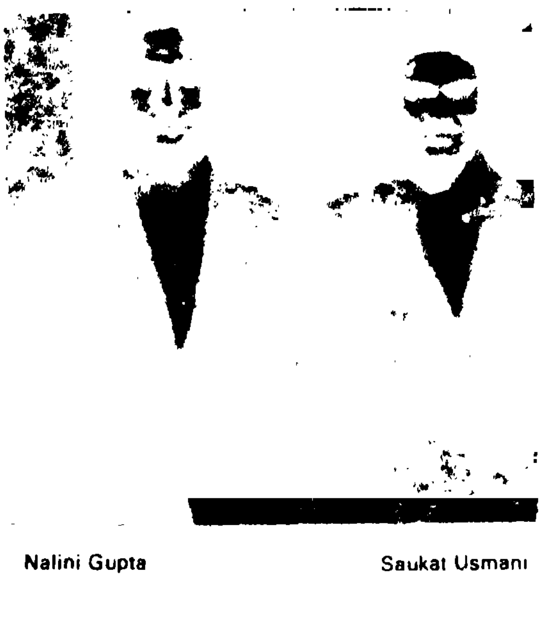
Kanpur Bolshevik Conspiracy Case (1924):

The photo shows four accused of the case who were to be convicted for four years in prison (from right to left) Muzaffar Ahmed, Sripad Amrit Dange, Saukat Usmani and Nalini Gupta. After one year Muzaffar Ahmed and Nalini Gupta were released on medical ground.

Four accused of Kanpur Conspiracy Case



Sripad Amrit Dange Muzaffar Ahmed

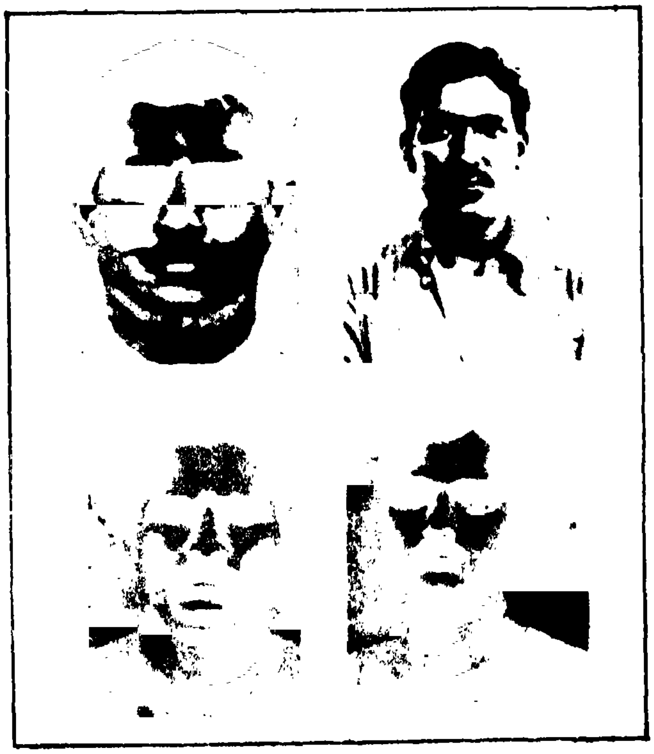


Nalini Gupta Saukat Usmani

Kakori Conspiracy Case (1925):

On 9th August, 1925, the revolutionaries stopped a train near Kakori railway station in Uttar Pradesh and looted the mail van. One person was killed there. The involved revolutionaries were all members of the Hindustan Republican Army.

Sachin Sanyal, Jogesh Chatterjee and other revolutionaries were given long sentences.



Four revolutionaries were hanged in this case

Top: Ram Prosad Bismil, Asfakulla,

Bottom: Thakur Raoshan Singh, Rajendra Lahiri



Tomb of Martyr Asfakulla

ـــ فروشی کی تمنّا اب ہمارے دل میں ہے
دیکھ لینا زور کتنا بازوئے قاتل میں ہے
بسمل عظیم آبادی

–সরফরোসি কি তমন্না অব হামারে দিলমে হ্যায়।
দেখ্ লেনা জোর কিত্না বাজু-এ-কাতিল মে হ্যায়॥

(শহীদের প্রেরণা এখন আমার অন্তরে। জল্লাদের হাতে কতো শক্তি আজ আমি পরখ করব।)

Martyr Bismil mounted the gallows with this song on his lips



Singara Velu Chettiar

On 19th December, 1925, Bismil mounted the gallows with the song of on his lips: "Sarafrosi ki tamanya ab hamare dilme hai dekhlena jor kitna baju-ek-katil me hai".



Bismil Ajimabadi composer of the song 'Sarafrosi

Kanpur Communist Conference (December, 1925):

Singara Velu Chettair presided over the conference and Hasarat Mohani became Chairman of the Reception Committee. Among those, who attended, were Muzaffar Ahmed, S.V. Ghate, K.L. Joglekar, Baba Santokh Singh, Mahammad Hasan, etc. In other words, representatives of all the four communist circles in India from Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Lahore, attended the conference. The conference adopted a short programme of activities and a Constitution and elected a new Executive Committee of the Party.

THE

FIRST INDIAN COMMUNIST CONFERENCE

1925.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

COMRADES

Our Conference. —At a time when the opponents of Communism are attempting to crush our beneficient movement for making this world happier and pleasanter for all human beings dwelling in it, we communists in India are meeting in this hall to-day, to take a general view of the political and economic situation obtaining in India and to concert measures by which we can render the life of our own countrymen better and happier. We wish that our peaceful movement will be better understood both by our countrymen and our rulers, by means of the deliberations we are having here in this Conference, and we hope that our work will be better appreciated by the general public, especially the industrial and agricultural workers for whose benefit this conference is mainly held.

A part of the Presidential address of Singara Velu Chettiar

ALL BENGAL PEASANTS' CONFERENCE

2nd Session—Krishnanagar—Nadia

(6-7 February 1926)

RESOLUTION

1 For the protection and furtherance of the interests of the peasants and workers the conference herewith resolves to organise a Peasants and Workers Party in the following way

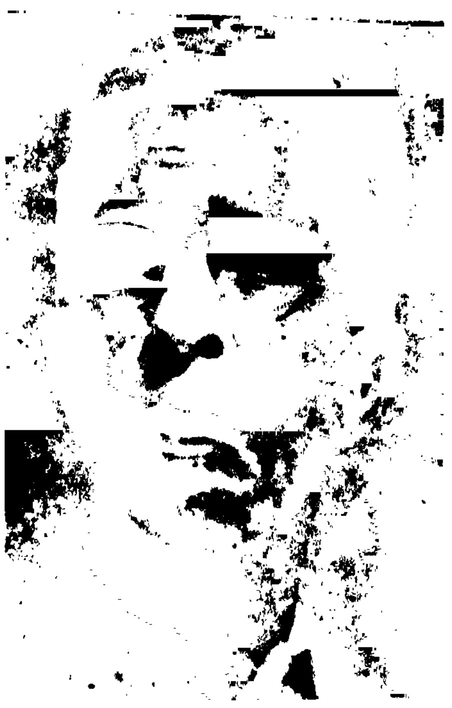
Proposed by—Fazluddin Hussain (Mymensingh)

Seconded by—Brajnath Das (Bagra)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE *(For one year)*

President	Dr Nareshchandra Sengupta MABL Calcutta
Vice Presidents	Maulavi Qutbuddin Ahmad Calcutta Rajibuddin Tarafder MLC (Barra) Shri Atulchandra Gupta Calcutta
Secretary	Shri Hemanta Kumar Sarkar MA MLC (Nadia)
Assistant Secretary	Maulavi Shamsuddin Hussain (Birbhum)

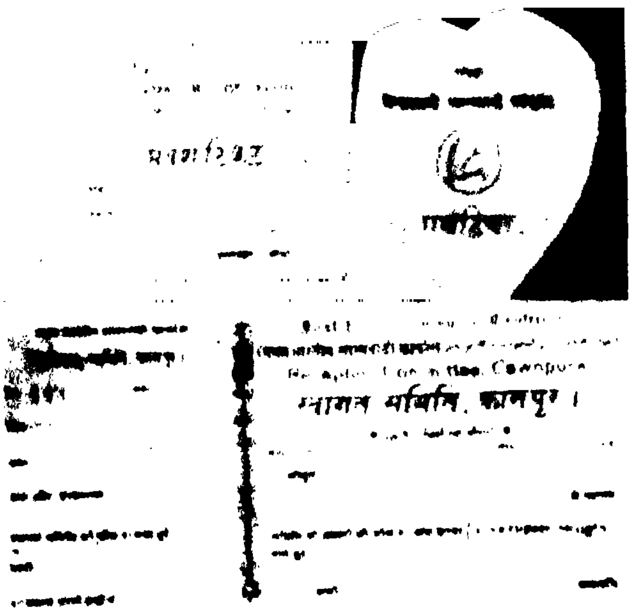
All Bengal Peasants' and Workers' conference



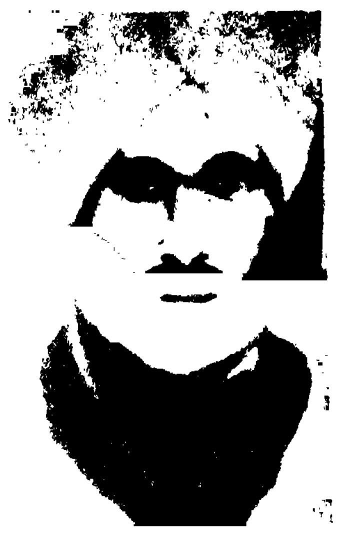
The new Secretary of the party S V. Ghate

The Babbar Akali Movement in Punjab

From 1920 to 1926, the Akalis of Punjab carried on sustained mass movement in completely peaceful, non-violent way against the oppressive and corrupt high priests of the Gurdwaras. In 1921, the hight priest of Nankana opened fire, killing several hundred people in 1922, the police resorted to brutal repression to break the *Satyagraha* movement of 5,500. Akalis in what is known as the Guru-Ka-Bag *satyagraha* In retaliation, a group of young Akalis took to the path of armed action against the police. These youngmen came to be known as Babbar Akalis. Many of them were killed in course of armed clashes with the police, while others were executed.



Delegates' Card pass, badge and receipt



Kisan Singh Gurgat



Ratan Singh

League Against Imperialism (1927):

From 10 to 15th February, 1927, an Anti Imperialist International Conference was held at Brussels. From India Jawaharlal Nehru, Moulana Barkatullah, Sapurji Saklatwalla, Virendranath and others came to this conference. Among the patrons of the League Against Imperialism were: (in the photo from left to right on the top most line): Madam Suniyat Sen, Albert Einstein, Upton Sinclair, Henri Barbusse and Maxim Gorky.

Two General Secretaries of the Leage were Willie Sunzenburg and Virendranath Chattopadhyay. In the last line the last three persons are (from Left to Right) Jawaharlal Nehru, Sohan Singh Josh and Sapurji Saklatwala.



The leaders of International League against Imperialism



A few members of Anti Imperialist Conference

The Indian delegation inside the International Conference.

One can see Jawaharlal Nehru and Kamala Nehru and behind them Virendranath Chattopadhyay. Third and fourth from the right are Baker Ali Mirza and Maulana Barkatullah.



Jawaharlal Nehru the Deputy Chairman of the Anti-Imperialist Conference

Attending the Anti-Imperialist Conference, Jawaharlal Nehru, on his left Abani Mukherjee and two other representatives on either side

The Presedium of the International Conference at Brussels. In the first row from left to right are Jawaharlal Nehru, Lansbury, Ado Filmen, General Lu-Ching-Lin and Niao of Kyo-Men-Jang.

Sapurji Saklatwala in India (1874-1936):

In the opening of 1927, the Indian Communist Member of the British Parliament Saklatwala came to India. In the same year in Delhi in March speaking at the annual conference of the All India Trade Union Congress he said: "If the workers can not establish supremacy over society then trade union movement would be reduced to a farce. The aim of the trade union movement should be to overthrow imperialism and capitalism and to establish a State controlled by the workers".

In this session of the T.U.C. for the first time the Red Flag was hoisted and the slogan given "*Lal jhanda ki joy*"

Before this on 20th February, 1927, the Calcutta Corporation had given Saklatwala a civic reception in the Town Hall. There Saklatwala spoke for over an hour. After listening to him, the Mayor J.M. Sengupta replied that at first he had some difficulties about giving this reception to Saklatwala, but after listening to his speech, he frankly confessed that his anti-communism did not exist any more.



Sapurji Saklatwala

The Strike of the Railway Workers of Kharagpur and Liluah (1927-1928):

On 12th February, 1927, 2,500 railway workers went on strike at Kharagpur. On the basis of an assurance by the railway authorities, the strike ended. But on 7th September, the authorities broke their pledge and served a notice of retrenchment of 1700 railway workers. From the very next day, 2,500 railway workers went on complete strike. After this strike had gone on for 6 months, the rail workers of Liluah went on strike in support of them. At their head were Kiran Mitra *(Jatadharibaba)*, Shibnath Banerjee and two communist leaders Gopen Chakraborty and Dharani Goswami.

Liluah was a few miles away from Bamungachi. When several thousand striking workers went in procession towards Bamungachi the police opened fire. As a result, 5 workers lost their lives. In protest strike took place in Jessop and Burn and other factories. At long last, on 10th February, 1928, the strike was withdrawn. This more than 6 months long strike was widespread, united and bloody. Immediate demands of the Kharagpur and Liluah strike were not fulfilled, but the consciousness and militant solidarity displayed by the working class in these strikes were true signs of greater success in the days to come. The spontaneous All India Railway General Strike of 13th September, 1927, was also a sure proof of the militant consciousness of this period.



Radharaman Mitra



Gopen Chakraborty



Shibnath Banerjee

"Go back Simon" demonstration throughout India (1928):

The Madras Session of the Congress in December, 1927, declared complete independence to be the goal of our national movement. From 1921 onwards, the communists had consistently moved resolutions in favour of complete independence but almost all Congress leaders including Gandhiji were against it. This time, after his visit to the Soviet Union and after attending Anti-Imperialist Conference at Brussels, Jawaharlal himself brought a resolution for complete independence which was naturally supported by the communist Joglekar. The resolution was easily passed. Gandhiji was absent, but he expressed great irritation that such an unwise and immature resolution had been taken.

The same Madras Session of the Congress had adopted a strong resolution proposing boycott of the Simon Commission. So, when "Simon Seven" arrived in Bombay on 3rd February, 1928, *hartal* was observed throughout India. Then wherever the Commission went, whether Madras, Calcutta, Delhi, Lucknow or



Lala Lajpat Rai seriously injured by police lathicharge on thoroughfare Lahore

Patna, warcry went up from huge procession, "Go back Simon". The police replied with brutal lathi-charge. Even the leaders were not spared. In Lucknow, Jawaharlal Nehru and Gobinda Ballav Pant were injured. In the streets of Lahore the veteran old leader Lajpat Rai was seriously injured and this hastened his death Rolland condemned this cowardly attack on these old leaders in harsh accents. Yet the British rulers rejected the demand for an impartial enquiry.

Just one month after the death of Lajpat Rai, the oppressive police officer Saunders was killed in open day light by the bullets of the revolutionaries Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdeb.



"Simon go back" procession in Madras

Bardoli Satyagraha (1928):

In the middle of 1928, peasants of Bardoli *Tehsil* of Gujarat (middle and well-to-do peasants) protested against periodical increase of land revenue to the extent of 25% rise. They were all opposed to such rent increase. What they were opposing was the excessive increase. They were demanding that Government could not arbitrarily increase rent, but take step only after impartial enquiry. If the Government rejected their appeal, then they would stop paying rent. The peasants started a *Satyagraha* movement under the leadership of Sardar Vallabbhai Patel. The Government started severe police repression and confiscated property of the peasants including cattle. But the movement instead of subsiding, took mass character and in August, 1928, the Government brought down

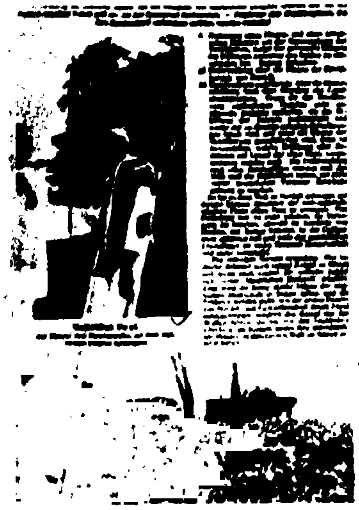


Photo of Bardoli Satyagraha in a German paper

the increase in rent from 25% to a little over 6%. All the confiscated properties were returned and all the Patils (Government officials) who had lost their jobs for protesting against repression were given back their jobs.

Historic General Strike of Bombay Textile Workers (1928):

In March, 1928, the Textile mill owners of Bombay suddenly decided that each weaver would have to run 3 looms instead of 2 and after the clothes had been woven, each worker will have to look after all the machines. Once this scheme was implemented, it would have meant not only pressure of work on the workers, but also retrenchment of many weavers.

The Textile workers of Bombay were then divided in three unions: The Bombay Textile Workers Union run by moderates like N.M. Joshi, the relatively militant Girni-Kamgar Mahamandal led by A.A. Alway (in 1929 an accused in the Meerut Conspiracy Case) and the newly established Girni Kamgar Union (G.K.U.) led by the communists.



The executive committee of Girni Kamgar Union



Women picketers in a yarn mill strike



Four leaders of Strike in Bombay
Top : Benjamin Bradley
Bottom : Mirajkar, Thenkri and Dange.

On 9th April, 1928, the last two unions formed a joint front and in a joint leaflet addressed to the workers they wrote : "The only way to resist the brutal attack of the textile mill owners on your wage and jobs is the path of united general strike".

On 17th April, 70% of the Bombay Textile Mill went on strike. On 23rd April, the police opened fire on a worker procession. Militant worker Parasuram Jadav became a martyr

The strike did not break up. On 26th April, even the Bombay Textile Workers Union led by moderates like N.M. Joshi was also forced to join the General Strike. A Strike Committee was formed centrally with organisers and militant workers under communist initiative. This happened for the first time in the history of the Indian working class movement.

Alongside Dange, Ghate, Nimbkar, Joglekar. Mirajkar and other communist leaders of the strike struggle There was British communist Benjamin Bradley Next year all of them became accused in the Meerut Conspiracy Case.

Even the Royal Commission of labour was forced to admit that the biggest success of achievement by the communists was the Textile Workers General Strike of 1928. They were aware that the textile workers had no strong organisation. Then came the longdrawn strike. They fully utilised the opportunity and also by dint of tremendous hard work the communists won the confidence of the workers and were able to build up mighty unions of 50 thousand workers.

That is why when the strike ended for the time being, the workers were carrying the red flag and the membership of the communist-led Girni Kamgar Union was nearly one lakh. The donation of the union has crossed one lakh figure. Of this, Rs. 15,000 came as a solidarity gift from the textile workers union of Soviet Union. But many others helped the strike including such eminent Congress leader like Sarojini Naidu and Vitalbhai Patel.

Next only to the historic Textile Workers joined strike, worth mentioning is the strike of the G.I.P. Railway workers and the Bombay Dock Workers—both mainly under communist leadership.

Workers with the demonstration in the Calcutta Congress Session and the Conference of All India Workers and Peasants Party (December 1928):

On 30th December, 1928, a huge two mile long disciplined massive demonstration of 30,000 workers (according to Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramaia, official historian of the Congress—50,000) reached the Congress Session at the Park Circus Maidan. The demonstration was jointly organised by Bengal Jute Workers Association, Calcutta, Tramwaymen's Union, East India Railway Labour Union, Calcutta Port Trust Union and many others and led by men like Bankim Mukherjee, Dharani Goswami, Radharaman Mitra, Gopen Chakraborty, Shibnath Banerjee, Kiran Chandra Mitra, Kishorilal Ghosh, R.S. Nimbkar and others. They shouted such slogan like "Workers of the World Unite", "Long Live the Free Indian Republic". "The workers have nothing to lose, but their chains" and entered the Congress pandal. At first, the Congress volunteers tried to prevent the workers from entering and this led to a few fracas. Then at the intervention of the President Motilal Nehru and his son Jawaharlal Nehru, workers were allowed to enter There, mass meeting took place presided over by Jawaharlal Nehru. Bankim Mukherjee, Nimbkar, Kiran Mitra and Shibnath Banerjee spoke there. Then Dharani Goswami moved the resolution which was seconded by Joglekar and



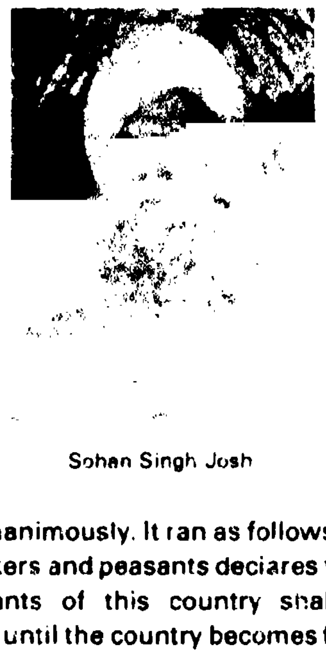


Radharaman Mitra   Gopen Chakraborty





Kishorilal Ghosh   Dharani Goswami



Sohan Singh Josh

adopted unanimously. It ran as follows. "This meeting of the workers and peasants declares that we, workers and peasants of this country shall not stop our movement until the country becomes free and all types of exploitation by imperialism and capitalism are put to an end. We call upon the Indian National Congress to accept this goal and to strengthen all nationalist organisations". One has to remember that while the workers and peasants accepted this resolution inside the Congress pandal, the next day, the Congress under Gandhiji's leadership accepted the goal dominion status within one year"

A few days back from 21st to 23rd December, 1928, a Conference of the All India Workers and Peasants Party took place in the Albert Hall of Calcutta. Before this, workers and peasants parties had grown up one after another in Bengal, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Now with representatives from all of them as also from many trade unions, this conference took place in Calcutta under the chairmanship of Sohan Singh Josh in order to set up an all India party Among those, who addressed the conference were Benjamin Bradly and J. Ryan, member of the Secretariat of the Pan-Pacific Trade Union and the new South Wales Trade Union Council. The E.C. of the Communist International sent message of greetings to the conference. The conference adopted resolutions of workers and peasants demand like cancellation of Trade Disputes Act, 8 hours a day, the right to form trade union by all workers including Government employees, the right to get affiliated in the A.I.T.U.C.; abolition of landlordism without compensation, progresive higher taxation of agricultural income existing Rs. 2,000/- per year. Moreover, the new party declared that its aim was the achievement of complete independence.

The Meerut Conspiracy Case (March 1929-August 1933):

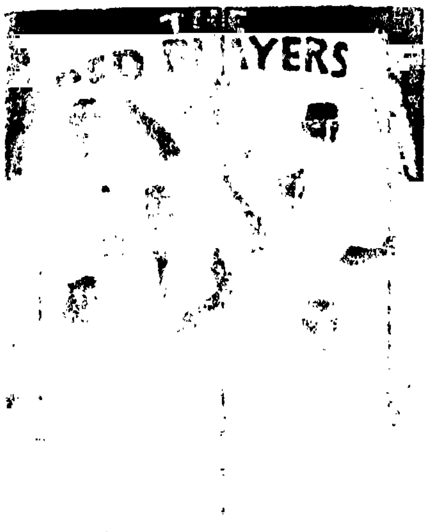
On 20th March, 1929, the Government carried out widespread simultaneous search throughout India and arrested 31 communist and trade union leaders. After 2 months they arrested Lester Hutchinson a Left Wing journalist. However, the communist leader Amir Haidar Khan escaped the police net and succeeded in going aoroad.

The main lawyer for the prosecution, barrister Lang Ford James in his opening speech declared that he would prove the "Communists were anti-religion, anti-national and anti-everything that is civilised in society". James hoped that by such tactics he would be able to isolate the communists from national and international support. This aim was totally frustrated. The Session Court gave all the accused savage long-term sentences, but after four and half years in August, 1933, on an appeal to the High Court,sentences of the accused were substantially reduced and many were released.



Accused in the Meerut Conspiracy case

This became possible because in support of the Meerut accused, huge movement have started in India and abroad. The nationalist press in India and the communist press abroad gave full publicity each day to the statements that the accused communists made in the Court room. The result was the communist view point became widely known to our countrymen notably to the youth



A poster of drama in England by the workers theatre movement on the Meerut Conspiracy case

Exploding of bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly by Bhagat Singh and Batukeswar Dutta (1929) :

On 8th April, 1929, in the Central Legislature at Delhi the Public Safety Bill and the Trade Dispute Bill were defeated by majority votes. The Viceroy at once used his special powers to certify those bills as lawful acts. Immediately, in protest of such anti-working class activity of the Government, the revolutionary Bhagat Singh and Batukeswar Dutta quickly threw two bombs in the Legislature hall. They did not try to escape, but started shouting "Long Live Revolution" "Down with imperialism", "Workers of the World Unite" and distributed a handbill. The opening line of the handbill, published in the name of the Hindusthan Socialist Republican Army ran as follows :



Bhagat Singh and Batukeswar Dutta



The declaration of Bhagat Singh and Batukeswar Dutta in Delhi Court



Bankim Mukherjee

"In order that the deaf might listen, the noise must be powerful". After their arrest, on 6th June, 1929, the two revolutionaries gave a historic statement. In the Court of the Delhi Session Judge where in ringing terms, they declared : "The revolutionaries believe that the deliverance of their country will come through revolution.The revolution,they are constantly working and hope will not only express itself in the form of armed conflict between the foreign governments and its supports and the people, it will also usher in a new social order. The revolution will ring the deathknell of capitalism, class distinction and privileges...we take this opportunity to appeal to our countrymen, to the youth, workers and peasants, to the revolutionary intelligentia, to come forward and join us in carrying aloft the banner of freedom .. let cowards fall back and cringe forcompromise and peace We ask not for mercy and we give no quarters. Ours is a war to the end, to victory or death. "Long Live the Revolution".

In the case Bhagat Singh and Batukeswar Dutta were give long sentences

The 1st General Strike of the Jute Workers (1929) :

In 1928, first in the Ludlow Jute Mill at Chengail and sometime later in the Fort Gloucester Jute Mill at Bauria, 6-month long strike took place. The first strike was led by Bankim Mukherjee. Radharaman Mitra, Gopen Chakraborty and Philip Spratt. After ashort time the workers obtained some of their demands and the strikers went back to work. The second strike was led jointly by moderate like Kishorilal Ghosh and communists or communist sympathisers like Bankim Mukherjee, Radharaman Mitra, Dharani Goswami and Philip Spratt. On the opening day of the Bauria strike, the police and the touts of the Company attacked the strikers. The police fired, injured 28 workers. Even then, the strike went on for 6 long months and only on 16th January, 1929, the strike was withdrawn. In the narrow barometer of economism, the strike may have been defeated, but the 6-months long determined struggle of the Bauria Jute workers was a clear evidence of the heightened class consciousness of the workers.

Such was the background of the 1st general strike of Jute workers in July and August, 1929 against the conspiracy to retrench 60,000 workers by increasing hour of work and workload as well as by introducing one instead of two shifts.



Dr Prabhabati Das Gupta

The general strike was conducted by the Bengal Jute Workers Union whose President was Dr. Prabhabati Das Gupta. The communists were also very active in this union like Abdul Momin, Abdur Rezzak Khan, Kali Sen, Bankim Mukherjee, Moni Singh and others. The general strike started from Alambazar and

Baranagar and within a week it had spread up to Barrackpore, involving one lakh jute workers. On 13th August, 1929, the number of striking jute workers went up to 1,92,000.

Thus, nearly 2 lakhs strong workers, general strike was organised on the one hand by a handful of communists or their sympathisers and several hundred militant worker activists. The veteran Dr. Bhupendranath Dutta also tried his level best to organise the strike from the outset.

The workers were able to win certain demands like forcing the mill owners to postpone for the time being their plans to retrench workers and increase working hours. But unfortunately, Dr. Prabhabati Das Gupta, President of the Bengal Jute Workers Union, made a separate agreement with the mill owners behind the back of the ordinary jute workers and also her colleagues to withdraw the general strike. This was a clear setback and led to some disruption in the working class unity.

Yet, the 1st general strike of the jute workers in 1929 was truly historic. For the first time millions of jute workers of Bengal became conscious through united struggle and realised the crucial importance of building up their own organisation brick by brick.



Martyr Jatindranath Das in death bed



Jatindranath Das

The martyrdom of the revolutionary Jatindranath Das (13th September, 1929):

The brutal police repression in the streets of Lahore resulted in the death of Lajpat Rai. The H.S.R.A. took the revenge of his death by killing Inspector Saunders in daylight in the street of Lahore. This led to the widespread arrest and the beginning of the Lahore Conspiracy Case. In the meanwhile, for throwing bombs in the Central Legislature, Bhagat Singh and Batukeswar Dutta had been given life sentences. Now they too were made accused in the Lahore Conspiracy Case, although later Batukeswar Dutta was acquitted in this case for want of evidence.

On the question of self-respect and proper rights of political prisoners, the accused in the Lahore Conspiracy Case started a historic hungerstrike. In this struggle one of the accused Jatindranath Das gave his life after 63 days of hunger strike. During forced feeding a tube entered his lungs and he was attacked by pneumonia. Yet, as a hunger striker Jatindranath refused to take any medicine till the last.

This unique sacrifice of Jatindranath Das roused the entire nation as never before.

On 17th September, 1929, his funeral procession in Calcutta became an unprecedented huge demonstration.

The Lahore Session of the Congress (December, 1929) and the adoptation of the resolution on complete independence.

The Calcutta Congress of 1928 had given the British the time of one year to grant Dominion Status to India. But they did not do so. Hence, as soon as one year so over, on the midnight of 31st December, 1929, the Lahore Congress Session adopted the goal of complete independence and raised the national flag.

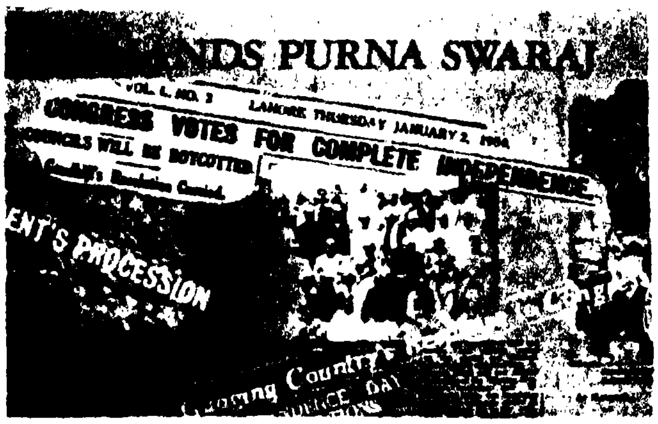
Remembering the thrill of the moment, many years later a participant wrote: "Many years ago on a midnight we had rushed out of our camp. On that night the silent banks of the river Ravi echoed to the thunderous roar of our slogans. The biting cold of December failed to subdue our fiery spirits. Heat had accumulated in our hearts. Through many years of experience, debate and struggles we had come to the firm conclusion that our main enemy was imperialism. This consciousness had electrified our minds. Standing on the banks on the river Ravi all of us made the determined declaration that it was the inalienable right of every Indian to obtain complete independence from the domination of imperialism".



Jawaharlal Nehru, President of the Lahore Congress



Spiritual Guide Gandhiji (Artist: Nandalal Bose)



A view of the mass rally of the Lahore Congress

The first phase of the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930):

The first symbolic step was taken on 26th January, 1930, by observing the day as Independence Day. On that day, from every public meeting, the national flag was hoisted and the pledge of complete independence was taken. The first part of the pledge ran as follows: "We believe that it is the inalienable right of the Indian people, as of any other people, to have freedom and to enjoy the fruits of their toil and have the necessities of life so that they may have full opportunities of growth. We believe also that if Government deprives people of these rights and oppresses, the people have a further right to alter it or to abolish it. The British Government in India had not only deprived the Indian people of their freedom but has based itself on the exploitation of the masses and has ruined India economically, politically, culturally and spiritually. We believe, therefore, that India must sever the British connection and attain "Purna Swaraj" or complete independence.

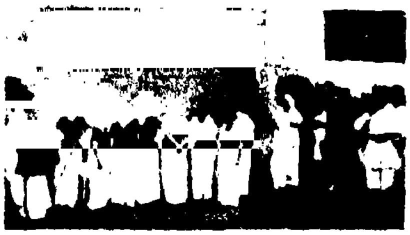
The Dandi March and the Salt Act Violation Movement :

On 12th March, 1930, Gandhiji together with 79 Satyagrahis started walking towards Dandi in the coast. He walked nearly 200 miles and reached Dandi on 5th April. There, he violated the Salt Act on 6th April. He was arrested on 4th May, 1930.

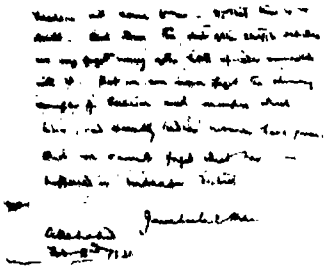
In May, 1930, Sarojini Naidu led the march to capture the salt godown at Dharsana. Just before the march, Sarojini told her followers that India's prestige was in their hands. Whatever be the provocation, they must not become violent. They might be beaten up, but should not hit back.



Jatindra Mohan Sengupta courts arrest while reading Sakharam Ganesh Deuskar's proscribed book "Desher Katha"

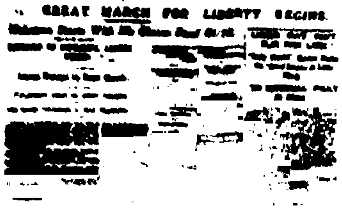


Some girl satyagrahis of Bethune College



Civil disobedience in Midnapore

Jawaharlal on the Contribution of Midnapore



GREAT MARCH FOR LIBERTY BEGINS

The civil disobedience movement begins



The self-sacrifice of BabuGenu He was a worker satyagrahi who was picketing foreign clothes shop when a lorry full of foreign clothes ran over him. He was killed outright.



Sarojini Naidu leader of the march to Dharsana salt godown

What happened afterwards has been graphically described by an American journalist: "Police officials ordered the marchers... to disperse. A picked column silently ignored the warning and walked forward. Scores of native police rushed upon the advancing marchers and rained blows on their heads with their steel-shod lathies. Not one of the marchers raised an arm to fend off the blows. I heard the sickening whacks of the clubs on unprotected skulls. The waiting crowd of watchers groaned and sucked in their breath in sympathy at each blow.

In two or three minutes the ground was filled with bodies.... the police rushed out and methodically and mechanically beat down the 2nd column. I felt an indefinable sense of helpless rage and loathing".



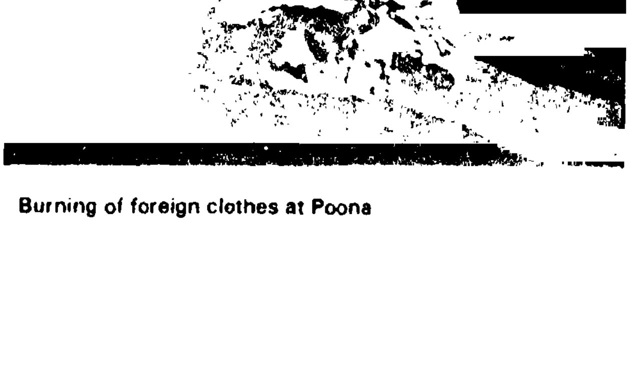
Civil Disobedience by schedule tribe women



Villagers of Ghansoli at Violation of Act



Salt act violation at Mahisbathan



Burning of foreign clothes at Poona



Prafulla Ghose



Ashalata Sen, leader of the passive resistance in Dhaka



Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy



Prafulla Sen

Several contemporary struggles of somewhat different character (Ist to 4th April, 1930):

The Carter's strike in Calcutta:

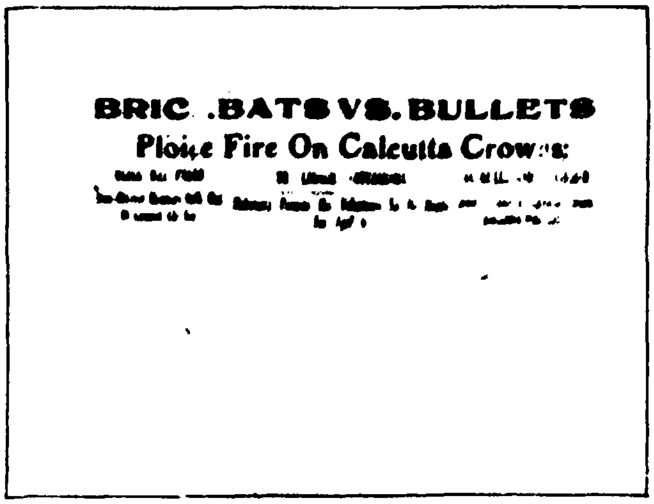
Bankim Mukherjee, Abdul Momin, Swami Viswananda and others led a heroic fight of the carters by paralysing all Harrison Road. Barricade fighting ensued and bullocks and buffaloes were taken away from the carts and this resulted in the total transport chaos. Police fired resulting in the death of 7 carters,



In America, Indians in the town of Detroit demonstrating against the arrest of Gandhiji. Irish Sin-Fin revolutionaries also joined this rally



Abdul Momin, leader of the Carters strike



BRIC .BATS VS. BULLETS

Ploice Fire On Calcutta Crowds:

Headline in Amrita Bazar Patrika

both Hindu and Muslim. Abdul Halim, on behalf of the C P I, issued a handbill both in Bengali and Hindi. For this he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment. A huge demonstration of Hindus and Muslims together formed the funeral procession of the 7 martyrs. After the communal riot of 1926, such demonstration of Hindu Muslim unity was truly unique. The police retreated and instructed the legalisations of buffalo and cattle cartmer. They had to put a stop to day-time journey by the bullockcart owners.

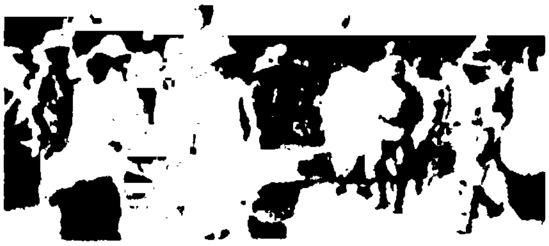
The head of the Central Intelligence Department, Sir Horace William wrote: "The carters of Calcutta under the instigation of communists created serious trouble. Later on the communist members characteriesd it as the first barricade struggle in India with the police." This was a correct assessment.



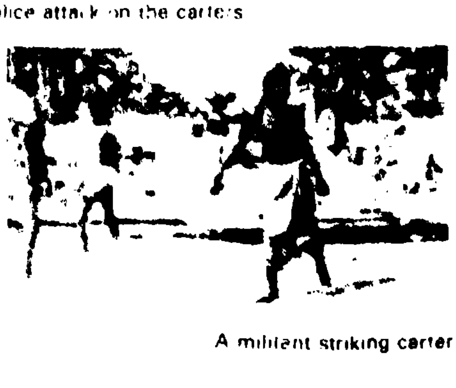
Mastarda Surya Sen—Supreme Commander

Chittagong Youth Revolt (18th April, 1930 to 1934):

On 18th April, 1930, at 10'O Clock at night in a well planned uprising, a group of young revolutionaries captured two armouries in the town and the rebels disconnected Chittagong's link with the outside world. The leader of this revolt Surya Sen, organised Indian Republican Army and with their help he now declared Chittagong "Independent" and called upon the youth to join the Indian Republican Army. Surya Sen (or masterda) was unanimously chosen a supreme commander of the rebellion. That struggle went on unbowed for four long years.



Police attack on the carters



A militant striking carter



Three distinguished young revolutionaries of Chittagong, on the left Ananta Singh, Ambika Chakraborty in centre and Ganesh Ghose on right



Nirmal Sen, one of the five top leaders of Chittagong



Lokenath Bal leader of the Jalalabad fighting



Kalpana Dutta



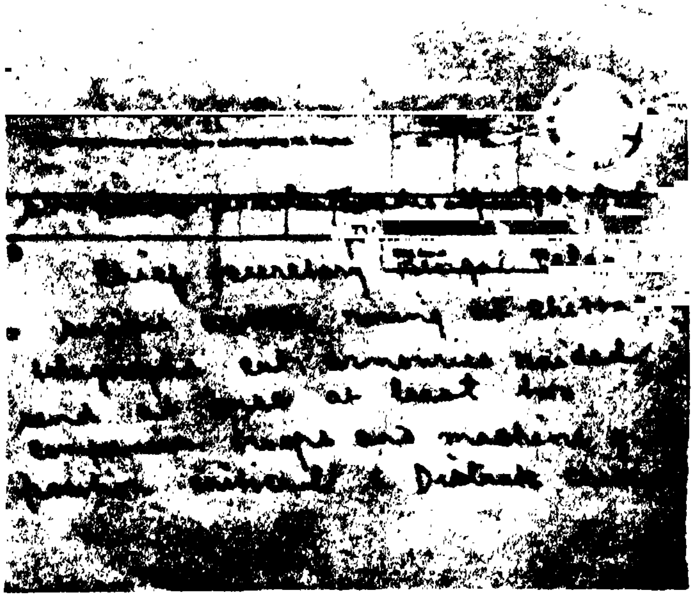
Martyrs of Jalalabad. From top left
1. Jiten Dasgupta, Madhu Dutta, Pulin Ghosh
2. Naresh Ray, Tripura Sen, Bidu Bhattacharya
3. Harigopal Bal (Tegra), Moti Kanungo
4. Prabhas Bal, Sasanka Dutta, Nirmal Lala



Pritilata Waddedar



Tarakeswar Dastidar



Telegram of Magistrate of Chittagong

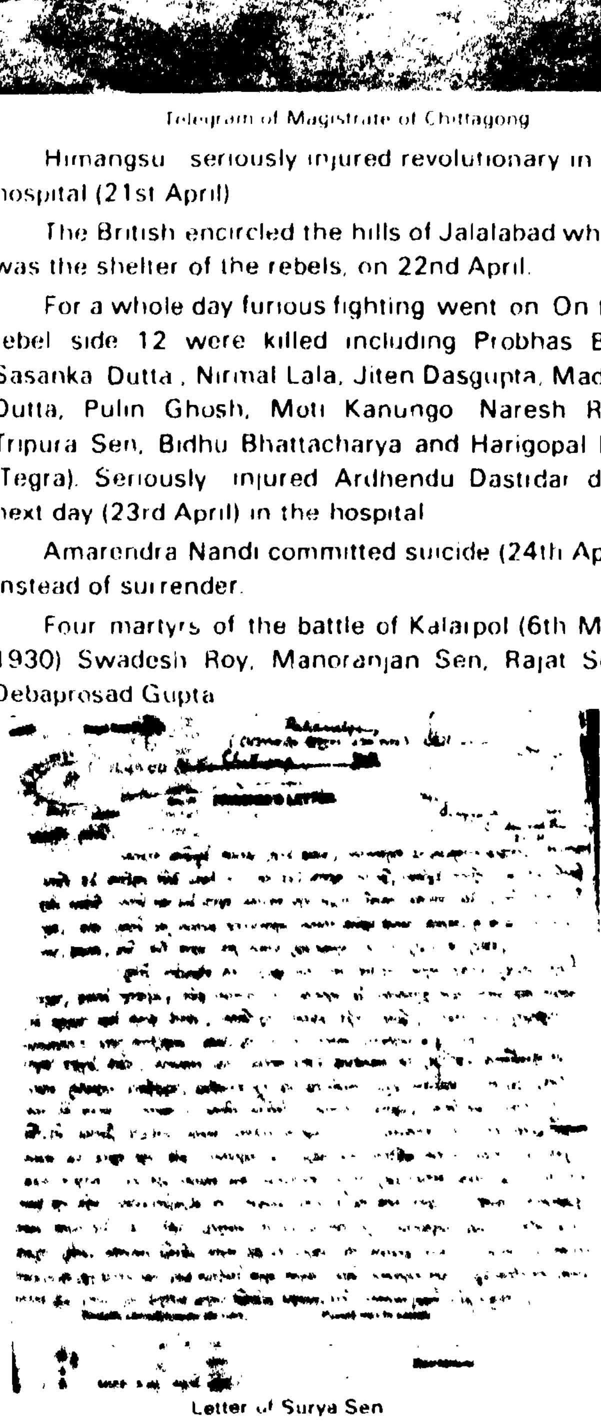
Himangsu seriously injured revolutionary in jail hospital (21st April)

The British encircled the hills of Jalalabad which was the shelter of the rebels, on 22nd April.

For a whole day furious fighting went on On the rebel side 12 were killed including Probhas Bal, Sasanka Dutta, Nirmal Lala, Jiten Dasgupta, Madhu Dutta, Pulin Ghosh, Moti Kanungo Naresh Ray, Tripura Sen, Bidhu Bhattacharya and Harigopal Bal (Tegra). Seriously injured Ardhendu Dastidar died next day (23rd April) in the hospital

Amarendra Nandi committed suicide (24th April) instead of surrender.

Four martyrs of the battle of Kalarpol (6th May, 1930) Swadesh Roy, Manoranjan Sen, Rajat Sen, Debaprosad Gupta



Letter of Surya Sen



The house in Chandannagar where Jiban Ghosal was killed and Ganesh Ghose Lokenath Bal and others were arrested

Jiban Makhan Ghosal killed by police bullet in a clash at Chandannagar (21st May, 1930).

Ramkrishna Biswas was hanged on 4th August, 1931, for murdering police Inspector Tarini Mukherjee

Efforts to dynamite the wall of the hall in May-June, 1931, and released the prisoners failed at the last moment.

On 30th August, 1931, Haripada Bhattacharya a mere boy shot dead in a football field the notorious police Inspector, Assanullah Haripada was not hanged for want of evidence, but given a life sentence.

On 13th June, 1932, in a clash at Dhalghat, one of the leaders of the youth revolt Nirmal Sen, together with Apurba (Bhola) Sen was killed by military bullets.

On 29th July, 1932, a revolutionary Sailesh Ray killed in Comilla in broad daylight Ellison, Chief of Police there.

On 24th September, 1932, a band of 7 young revolutionaries led by Pritilata Wadeddar attacked the European Club. Later on, to avoid arrest Pritilata committed suicide.

On 16th February, 1933, after a clash with Gorkha soldiers in the village of Goirola Surya Sen was arrested.

The letter written by Surya Sen before he was hanged (21st November, 1933).

On 19th May, 1933, two revolutionaries were killed in a clash with the armed force in the village of Gohera and Tarakeswar Dastidar and Kalpana Dutta were arrested.

On 7th January, 1934, four daredevil revolutionaries in a broad daylight attacked British officers in the paradeground with bombs and pistols. The bullets of the sentries killed Himangsu Chakraborty and Nityagopal Sen on the spot while Krishna Chowdhury and Haren Chakraborty were hanged later on.

On 12th January, 1934, the British brutally hanged Masterda (Surya Sen) and Tarakeswar Dastidar.

Refusal by the Garwhali Soldiers to fire on Pathan Satyagrahis of Peshwar (23rd April, 1930):

When on 23rd April, 1930, a huge volunteer corps of Pathans were going to picket foreign cloth shops in Peshwar responding to the call of frontier Gandhi the British Troops barred their path and opened fire on them.

This brutal fire on unarmed picketers led to many deaths and injuries. The Pathans became furious and retaliated and set fire to the armoured cars. Then the British called the Garwhali soldiers who were mainly Hindus to fire on the Pathans who were mainly Muslim. Despite the provocative order by the British Officer Thakur Chandra Singh Garwhali, leader of the Garwhali soldiers, refused to obey the British and threw down their guns. The Pathans and Garwhalis fraternised in joy and the British fled. Later on in a trial in a military court Thakur Chandra Singh was sentenced to death, ultimately it was commuted to transportation for life. Other Garwhali soldiers also received long prison sentences.

For a few days, the British rule collasped in India. Then a huge British army entered in Peshwar and carried on a reign of terror. They sent wire to the authorities in Delhi with the headline "Peshwar reconquered".



The Frontier Gandhi (Artist. Nandalal Bose)



Frontier Gandhi with the 'Lalkorta' army



British soldiers facing the Khuda-i-Khidmadgar army in Peshwar



An innocent Pathan killed in police firing



Grief-striken parents of two children killed in random firing of the British



Thakur Chandra Singh Garwali



Military cars set on fire by people of Peshwar

Sholapur working class uprising (6th May, 1930):

On 5th and 6th May, 1930, a total general strike of the working class took place at Sholapur in Maharastra as a protest against the arrest of Gandhiji. All English fled from the town and for a few days British rule collapsed there. Then huge British troops entered the town, proclaimed marshal law and re-established British power. They committed brutal atrocities everywhere. They even killed youngmen if they wore Gandhi caps. Rabindranath Tagore was then in England and he told the reporters of the Manchester Guardian "Those who experienced any bureaucratic irresponsible Government can easily understand how repressive measures like those culminating in the marshal law at Sholapur, are bound to react. Though much suppressed, news is trickling. British travellers from India telling how cruel and arbitrary justice are meted out to entirely inoffensive persons though such were called by the high sounding men as law and order. They are themselves the worst breaches of law and humanity which I feel is greater than any other law".

On 12th January, 1931, the military court at Sholapur sentenced the following four persons to death: Malappa Dhanasethi (1898-1931), Qurban Hassain (?-1931), Srikrishna Sardar (1893-1931) and Jagannath Sinde (1906-1931). Of these four, Qurban was a trade union organiser.



Malappa Dhanasethi



Qurban Hassain



Jagannath Sinde



Srikrishna Sardar



Dharani Goswami

The Peasant unrest at Kishoregunj (May-June, 1930):

Some communist leaders like Dharani Goswami of the workers and peasants party were attracted towards the communism, but had not yet been able to give up the path of revolutionary terrorism had formed an organisation called "Young Comrades League". On 20th March, 1929, with many others Dharani Goswami was caught in the Meerut Conspiracy Case. Yet, the organisation did not break up, rather it became stronger in Rajsahi and Mymonsing. Notably in the Kishoregunj subdivision of Mymonsing the Young Comrades League led by Nagen Sarkar, Wali Nawaz, Subhansu Adhikari, Monindra Chakraborty, started in May-June, 1930, a widespread peasant movement against the oppression of zaminders, big talukdars and moneylenders

The movement started as Hindu-Muslim united march against the oppressive Muslim moneylender, who lived in a village some 10 miles from Kishoregunj. The peasants ransacked the *kachari* and burnt down all the deeds of debt. Like wildfire, the movement spread to Jangalia, Hossainpur, Mathkhola, Gobindapur and other villages in Kishoregunj. Special noteworthy is the episode connected with the attack on the house of Krishna Ray, powerful moneylender of Jangalia Krishna Ray and his men opened fire upon peasant masses killed 8 peasants and injured many. After this, the infuriated peasants entered the houses, ransacked everything, burnt all deeds of debt and killed Krishna Ray.

The British Government and even the nationalist members propagated that this was a communal instance and should be suppressed with a firm hand. Only the communists and the *Nikhil Banga Proja Samity* led by the nationalist Muslims, supported this mass unrest. As a result, the Government declared illegal a few branches of Proja Samity....communal propaganda led the Kishoregunj peasant unrest also to deviate from its chosen path but yet essentially it was an anti-moneylender upsurge about which there was no doubt.

The Tharawaddy revolt in Burma (1930-31):

Upto 1937, Burma was an integral part of India. That is why many leaders of the India's freedom movement—from Tilak, Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh to Subhas Ch. Bose and J.M. Sengupta were banished to far-off Burma. In 1923 together with Subhas Chandra Bose, many of the Jugantar, Anusilan parties like Bhupendra Kumar Dutta, Arun Guha, Jyotish Ghosh, Trailakya Chakraborty, were sent to Mandalay and Basin Jail in Burma.

The British conquered Burma much later. That is why the freedom movement there also had certain distinct peculiarities. One such peculiarity was the contribution of Buddhist monks in Burmese politics, for example, the Monk Uttam was a prominent Congress leader while he had connection with Anusilan Samity. Another Buddhist freedom fighter Fungin started a hunger strike inside jail on 9th April, 1929, and died there on 20th September, after 163 days of hunger strike. But the movement that took the most militant and widespread character in Burma was Tharawaddy revolt. This revolt was led by a Burmese native doctor called Siasan. By November, 1930, the revolt spread first among the peasants in Tharawaddy Inseit and Peapon areas. Siasan adopted guerilla tactics and made life hell for the British troops. He travelled like lightening from Mandalay in the north to the southern frontier.

After two years of incessant struggle Siasan was caught at last on 2nd August, 1931. On 30th August, he was sentenced to death and he was executed on 28th November, 1931.

According to the then documents all told 274 were sentenced to death in the Tharawaddy revolt and 535 were given life sentences. But to bring terror among the peasants, the British cut off the head of the peasant leaders and displayed it before the peasants.



Benoy Badal Dinesh

The attack on the Writers' Buildings by Benoy, Badal and Dinesh (8th December, 1930):

On 8th December, 1930, 3 revolutionaries belonging to the Bengal Volunteers (B.V.) Benoy (1908-1930), Badal (Sudhir) Gupta (1912-1230) and Dinesh Gupta (1911-1931) stormed into Writers' Buildings, in broad daylight and killed with bullets Simpson, Inspector General of Prisons. After this, Benoy and Badal committed suicide while Dinesh was seriously injured by his own bullet. Later on Dinesh was sentenced to death and was executed on 7th July, 1931

Sometime before this incident (29th August, 1930) Benoy Bose killed inside the Dacca Mitford Hospital, Lowman, Inspector General of Police

Beating up of the Mayor of Calcutta by the Police and his imprisonment (26-1-1931):

The Government of India on the one hand and the Congress leadership on the other, were feeling deeply anxious by the repeated outbreak of revolutionary activities Moderate leaders like Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and M R Jayakar were trying their best to start a negotiation between the Congress leadership and the Government of India, to enable the Congress to participate in the Round Table Conference scheduled in London That is why, the Viceroy had arranged so that the imprisoned Congress leaders could meet each other on 25th January, 1931

The very next day, i e on 26th January, 1931, Subhas Bose then Mayor of Calcutta, was leading a procession on the occasion of the Independence Day from the Corporation of Calcutta towards the Maidan The cavalry division of the Calcutta Police made a sudden lathi charge on the procession The brutal lathi charge fractured the wrist of Mayor Subhas Bose and split up the scalp of Education Officer Kshitish Prosad Chattopadhyay and others They were arrested and sent to jail and there instead of proper treatment they were met with uncivilised behaviour



On 26th January 1931, Subhas Bose lead a procession from corporation building on the occasion of the 'Independence' day.



Police atrocities on procession led by Subhas Chandra Bose

The martyrdom of Chandrasekhar Azad (1906-1931), Commander-in-Chief of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army.

One of the noblest leaders and Commander-in-Chief of the H.S.R.A. Chandrasekhar Azad was killed in an open armed clash with the police on 27th February, 1931, inside the Alfred park, now renamed as Chandrasekhar Azad Park in Allahabad

Azad was born on 23rd July, 1906, in the village Bhaora in the district of Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh He got his education in the Kashi Vidyapith At the age of 14 he was arrested for participating in the non-cooperation movement and was punished with 15 lashes In 1922, he joined the revolutionary party and participated in the Kakori rail dacoity incident He evaded arrest and as an absconder built the secret revolutionary organisation. In 1928, together with Bhagat Singh and other eminent revolutionaries, he built up the Hindustan Socialist Republican Party The Government announced a reward of Rs. 30,000/- for capturing Azad dead or alive. When Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdeb Singh killed Saunders, Azad was on the spot to help them

On 27th February, 1931, he was encircled by a huge force of armed police inside the Alfred Park and fought courageously for a long time single-handed. He injured a few police officers, but was finally killed by a rifle bullet.



Chandrasekhar Azad killed in police firing

The martyrdom of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdeb (23rd March, 1931):

Bhagat Singh and Batukeswar Dutta were given life sentences for exploding bombs inside the Central Legislature. When the Lahore Conspiracy Case started connected with the murder of Saunders, Bhagat Singh was made an accused in the case. In that and other connected cases, Shiv Verma, Kishorilal, Jaydev Kapoor, Dr. Goyaprosad, Bejoy Kumar Sinha, Kamalnath Tewari, Mahabir Singh and others were sentenced to transportation for life while Bhagat Singh (1907-1931), Shivram, Rajguru and Sukhdev were sentenced to death.

Among these revolutionaries Bhagat Singh was influenced by Communist ideas. It was at his suggestion that the name of the party was changed from Hindustan Republican Army to Hindustan Socialist Republican Army. In the pamphlet written by him "Why I am an atheist" his progressive ideas stand out sharp and clear.

On 23rd March, 1931, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdeb were hanged inside the Lahore Central Jail. After the death sentence was passed Bhagat Singh deeply studied Marxism inside the prison and also persuaded the veteran absconder Prithivi Singh Azad to go to the Soviet Union to see for himself the real face for communism.



Bhagat Singh



Dr Goyaprosad



Shib Verma



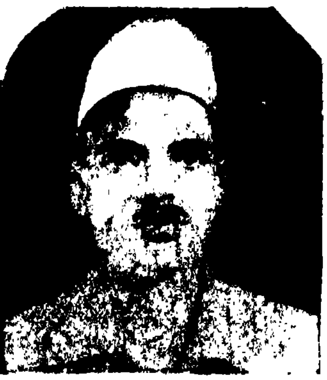
Bijoy Kumar Sinha



Dhannantari



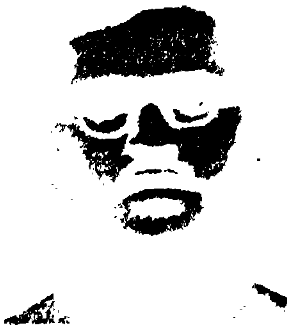
Sukhdeb



Rajguru



Tomb of Bhagat Singh



Bhagabaticharan Vora



Durga Devi

The tragic death of Bhagabaticharan Vora (28th May, 1930):

On 28th May, 1930, one of the tallest leaders of the H S R A and Naojayan Bharat Sabha Bhagabaticharan 'Bhora was killed in an accident far away from the public view On that night round about 11 p.m he had gone to a deep forest on the banks of the river Ravi together with two other revolutionaries to experiment a highly powerful explosive bomb All on a sudden, the bomb burst on Bhagabaticharan's hands and he was mortally injured. He suffered agonising pain and died before any medical help could be given to him. He was manufacturing those bombs with a view to rescueing from jail the imprisoned Bhagat Singh and Batukeswar Dutta. Before he died his last words to his comrades were "Do not grieve over this accident, remember the task of rescueing Bhagat Singh and others still remains incomplete'



Susila Devi

Durga Devi, Susila Devi

Durga Devi (better known as Durga Bhavi) was the wife of the famous revolutionary Bhagabaticharan. Not only that she was herself directly connected with the revolutionary activities. After the murder of Saunder's it was with her help that Bhagat Singh and Rajguru escaped from the police at Lahore. Sushila Devi was a revolutionary and later on a Congress leader in Delhi while Prakashbati Devi, wife of the well known writer Yaspal was also a well known revolutionary

Baikuntha Shukla and Chandrama Singh.

When Phani Ghosh, member of the Central Committee of the H.S.R.P. was caught by the police, he became an approver and this resulted in untold damages to the revolutionaries, in the Lahore Conspiracy Case, the Motihari Conspiracy Case, the Patna Conspiracy case and the Saunania Dacoity case. The Government rewarded him with lots of money and made adequate sentry arrangements for his security



Baikuntha Shukla

Phani lived comfortably in his house at Bettia. After a longtime security was relaxed. On the noon of 9th Novemebr, 1932, someone called Phani. He believed the caller to be a friend. At once, a sharp dagger ended his life. After many months, on 6th July, 1933, Baikuntha and Chandrama Singh were arrested a charge of having committed this act. nc 23rd February, 1934, Baikuntha Shukla was sentenced to death and Chandra Singh was given long years of imprisonment. Shukla was hanged inside Gaya jail on 14th May, 1934. The Gandhi-ite leader Bibhuti Bhusan Dasgupta has recalled it in a memorable pamphlet "Sai mahabarasar Ranga Jal", the graphic description of that never to be forgotten night before Baikuntha was hanged. Bibhutibabu was a good singer. no that night he sang song after song on the request of Baikuntha—Khudiram's "Ekbar Biday de ma" Ramprosad Bismil's "Sar-Farosi Ki Tamanna", 'Rabindranath's songs and finally before Baikuntha walked up to the gallows Bande Mataram'.

"Baikuntha finally looked at us and said 'Dada farewell, I will come back again for the country is not yet free. 'Bande Mataram'.

Harikishan (1908-1931) and Gurudas Mal (1883-1931)—Martyr, son and father:

In the Norht-West frontier of India there was a small village called "Ghalladhar." There the entire Talwar family were devoted followers of the Khuda-I-Khidmatger led by Badsah Khan. In this united



Harikishan Lal



Gurudas Mal

Pakhtoon family both father and son became martyrs. The 2nd son Harikishan was an activist in the Naojoyan Bharat Sabha established by Bhagat Singh and Bhagabaticharan. In consultation with the leaders of his organisation he decided to kill Sir Geoffery Montmorency, Governor of Punjab during the Convocation meeting of the Lahore University. When the father Gurudas Mal learnt of this decision of his son, he gave him training in markmanship to his son because was an expert *Shikari*.

On 23rd December 1930, during the Convocation function, Harikishan found that the eminent Indian Scholar Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan was sitting next to the Governor on the dais. Therefore, he tried to shoot the Governor without injuring the eminent Scholar. As a result, the bullet was some what misdirected and was lodged in the left arm of the Governor while the 2nd bullet grazed his back. A police Sub-Inspector tried to shoot Harikishan, but Harikishan shot him dead. Two more policemen were injured by 2 bullets. After his bullets were exhausted, Harikishan was arrested.

On 10th March, 1931, the Court sentenced Harikishan to death. On 9th June, 1931, Harikishan was hanged inside Mianwali jail.

The mortified Gurudas Mal was also arrested almost together with his son. His trial was going on in the Lahore Court. Frustrated due to the failure to kill Governor and the shock of the death of his son shattered the health of Gurudas Mal and he died inside the prison 25 days after his son was hanged.

Karachi Congress (1931):

On 5 March, 1931, as the culminating point of the compromise, talks between the Congress led by Gandhiji and the Government led by the Viceroy, an agreement was signed between Gandhiji and Irwin, the Viceroy. The Civil-Disobedience movement was



The youths in Karachi Congress demonstrating with black flag against Gandhiji

withdrawn and the imprisoned satyagrahis were released and the path was cleared for the Congress to join the Round Table Conference at London in order to try to secure their demands. But the revolutionary prisoners, accused in the Lahore, Meerut and various other conspiracy cases, still rotted in the prisons. The youth were particularly infuriated because just on the eve of the Karachi Congress Session, the execution of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev took place. The youth expressed thier anger by black flag demonstration against Gandhiji.

A few days before the Congress Session another tragic incident happened. From 24th March, a communal riot broke out at Kanpur and several hundred Hindus and Muslims were killed there. The President of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee, Editor of the "Pratap" of Kanpur, friend of the revolutionaries, the eminently respected leader Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi was killed in the riot and his dead body could be found only on the 29th of March. He was rescuing Muslim from Hindu areas and Hindu families from Muslim areas. While doing this heroic work be became a martyr.



Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi

Despite all anger and discontent, the Karachi Congress ratified the Gandhi-Irwin pact and the path was cleared for participation in the Round Table Conference. But very soon, it was crystal clear that the Government did not intend in the least to implement the terms of the agreement. Yet, brushing aside protests Gandhiji started for England on 29th August as the sole representative of the Congress.

In the R.T.C. no demand was secured. On the other hand, the new Viceroy Willingdon and his Government started a regime of terror in India. On 28th December, 1931, empty-handed Gandhiji came back to India. This time, the Government was firmly prepared to meet the challenge of a resumption of this Civil Disobedience movement. On 4th January, 1932, the Congress and all its auxiliary organisations were declared illegal and all other leaders including Gandhiji were arrested on the very same day.



Picketer Duttatray



Meghraj

The common people of India did not easily accept defeat. In the Ist four months of 1932, the number of arrested rose to 80,000 and in March, 1933, the number of arrested rose to 1,20,000. On top of this police opened fire in many places and a widespread beating up, punitive taxes and confiscation of property None-the-less the heroic self-sacrifice of the people ended in failure because the ordinary soldiers without the proper commander can never win.

The killing of three Magistrates in Midnapore (1931-1934):

From 1931 to 1933, 3 successive European Magistrates in Midnapore—James Pedie (8th April, 1931), Robert Douglas (30th April, 1932 and B E.J. Burge (2nd September, 1933) were killed by the bullets of the revolutionaries. All these revolutionaries belonged to the group known as Bengal Volunteers (B.V.). Those who killed Pedie were never caught. For Killing Douglas, the revolutionary Prodyot was hanged inside Midnapore jail on 12th January, 1933. After killing Burge, the revolutionaries Mrigen Dutta and Anath Panja were killed by the bullets of the sentries on the spot. 3 others, Nirmal Jiban Ghosh, Braja Kishore Chakraborty and Ramkrishna Roy were sentenced to death. Braja Kishore and Nirmal Jiban were hanged in Midnapore jail on 25th October, 1933 while Ramkrishna was hanged in the same place on 23rd October.



Prodyot Bhattacharya



Mrigen Dutta



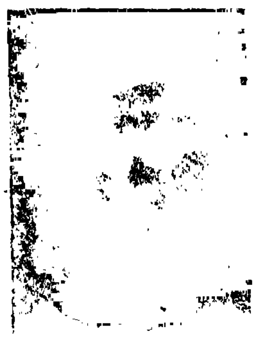
Braja Kishore Chakraborty



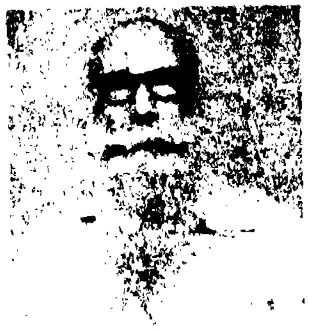
Anath Panja



Nirmal Jiban Ghosh



Ramkrishna Roy



Bimal Dasgupta

On 22nd July 1931, Basudeb Balvant Gogete, student of B.A class, shot at Ernest Hotson, Acting Governor of Bombay, inside the Library Hall of the Ferguson College. Hotson was wearing a steel jacket inside his shirt and that saved his life. Gogete was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment

R.R. Garlick was the Chairman of the Special Tribunal that sentenced to death Dinesh Gupta and Ramkrishna Biswas. Kanailal Bhattacharya shot Garlick dead inside the Court on 27th July, 1931. He was also killed at once by bullet fired by a Sergeant.

Two school girls of Comilla—Shanti Ghosh and Suniti Chowdhury (now Ghosh) shot dead Stevens, the District Magistrate on 14th December, 1931. On 27th January, 1932, considering the fact that both the girls were minors, the presiding judge gave them conviction for life instead of passing the death sentences. On 6th February, 1932, during the Convocation Function of Calcutta University, Bina Das (now Bhowmik) shot at Stanley Jackson, Governor of Bengal inside the Senate Hall, but the Governor narrowly escaped. The court sentenced Bina to 9 years hard labor. On 9th June, 1934 inside the Alipore Central jail, Dinesh Majumdar (1907-1934), the famous revolutionary of Jugantar Party was hanged. Dinesh had hurled a bomb at the car carrying Sir Charles Tegart, Commissioner of Police in Dalhousie Square on 25th August, 1930. With him were 3 other revolutionaries--Anujacharan Sen, Atul Sen and Sailen Neogi. From the opposite Anuja also threw a bomb, but it burst prematurely and Anuja was killed



Shanti Ghosh

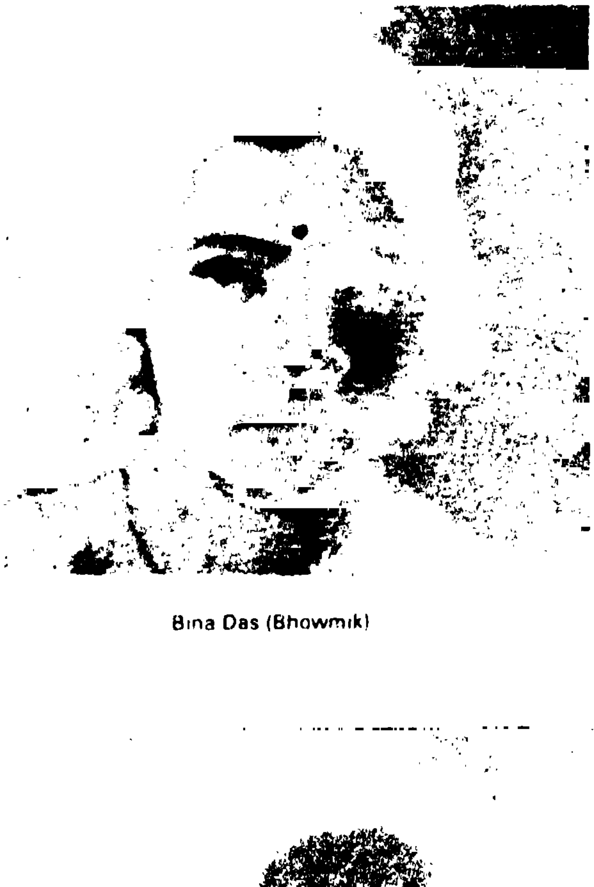
and Dinesh was caught, given a life sentence and sent to Midnapore jail. In 1932, together with 2 other revolutionaries he escaped from Midnapore jail and absconded in Chandannagar. Another revolutionary Nalini Das (1931-1982) together with his friend Phoni Das escaped from Hijli jail and also reached the same shelter at Chandannagar. When the police surrounded their shelter Dinesh and Nalini fired bullets at Random and escaped breaking through the police net. A bullet fired by Dinesh killed the police Commissioner of Chandannagar.



Suniti Chowdhury (Ghosh)



Lila Roy



Bina Das (Bhowmik)



Ujjala Majumdar (Rakshit Roy)



Dinesh Majumdar



Satis Pakrasi



Nalini Das

On 8th May, 1934, Bhawani Bhattacharya and his 2 comrades tried to shoot Sir John Anderson, Governor of Bengal and notorious leader of "Black-and-Tan" in Ireland. The attempt was made in the Race Course at Lebong near Darjeeling, but they were unsuccessful.

Bhawani was caught and hanged inside Rajsahi jail on 3rd February, 1935. In the connected conspiracy case Manoranjan Bandyopadhyay and Rabindranath Bandyopadhyay were sentenced to transportation for life while the girl revolutionary Ujjala Majumder was sentenced to 14 years rigorous imprisonment. All of them belonged to the Bengal Volunteers.

Later on Dinesh and Nalini together with another revolutionary Jagodananda Mukherjee lived as absconders in a house in Cornwallis Street. On 22nd September 1933 the police surrounded that house. Bullets were exchanged and the 3 revolutionaries fought till the last bullet and were finally arrested in an injured condition. The courts sentenced Dinesh Majumder to death and Nalini and Jagodananda to transportation for life.



Niranjan Sen



Anuja Charan Sen



Dr. Narayan Roy

Police atrocities inside Hijli Detention Camp (16th Sept., 1931):

Friction was going on for some time in the Hijli Detention Camp between the authorities and the political prisonars. Yet what happened there on 16th September, 1931 was unexpected and unprecedented. At about 9 at night 50 armed police and many sepoys suddenly entered the prison cells and attacked the prisoners in a wanton manner. In the police firing Santosh Kumar Mitra of Calcutta (who was already a Marxist and friend of the communists) and Tarakeswar Sen of Barisal were killed. Many of these prisoners were seriously injured. The Commandant's Quarter was only a stone's throw from the Detention Camp and yet he arrived there full one hour later.

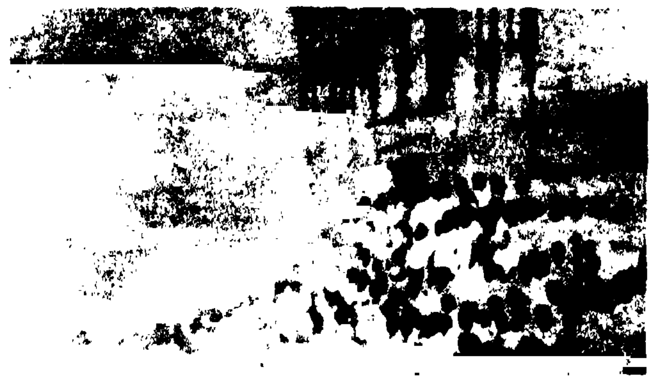


Santosh Kumar Mitra



Tarakeswar Sen

The Official Enquiry Committee tried to hush up the whole matter. Even they had to write "The Committee wants to add that some of the sepoys entered the Detention Camp, attacked the prisoners with bayonets and fired bullets several times. All these were totally unwarranted". Rabindranath was deeply disturbed by the Hijli events and although he was ailing and 70 years old still he addressed a massive public rally at the feet of the Calcutta Monument on 26th September, 1931. There he declared "When I find that the popular opinion have been so easily and contemptuously brushed aside and a reign of terror instituted then I can not but come to the conclusion that British rule in India has terribly degenerated and from now on such terrible acts of oppression will go on increasing in a dangerous way. On behalf of my countrymen I would like to warn the high officials that, however much powerful the foreign rulers may be, the loss of self-respect would become their greatest weakness. It may not be difficult for the monarch to compell the subjects to accept the fact of repression, but can any power on earth destroy in the minds of the organised subjects that it is the rulers who are really on the dock".



Rabindranath addressing a rally condemning the killing of political prisoners at Hijli

A few martyrs who were to face death inside prisons:

It is difficult to ascertain the exact number of prisoners who became martyrs inside the jail due to the torture of the authorities. We are giving here only a few names of such martyrs in the phase between 1930 and 1938.

Panchanan Palit:— He was a prisoner in Midnapore Central Jail arrested in the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930. The notorious District Magistrate Pedie kicked him in the chest and broke his ribs. In consequence, he died inside Midnapore jail in 1930.

Baba Lathu Ram (1870-1930):— He was a merchant in Punjab and joined the non-cooperation movement of 1921. In 1930, he was arrested for participating in the Civil disobedience Movement and in August was sent to Montgomari jail. There he went on hunger strike protesting against the oppression against the political prisoners. He was kept in a solitary confinement. In protest, he gave up even drinking water. As a result, he died on 13th December, 1930.



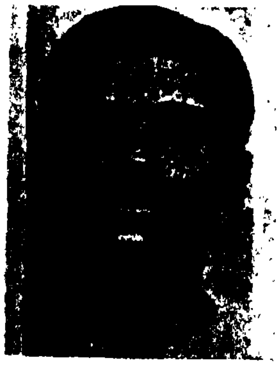
Panchanan Palit



Baba Lathu Ram



Bhaugir Goswami



Anil Chandra Das



Gurudas Ram



Santana Guha



Nabajiban Ghosh

Bhaugir Goswami (1912-1930):— He was a satyagrahi in the civil disobedience movement in Maharashtra. He was picketing a wine shop. The police knocked his head repeatedly in the wall and sent him to jail in a seriously injured condition. He died there on 30 December, 1930

Anil Chandra Das (1906-1932):— He was a brilliant student of Dacca University and joined the revolutionary party. He was arrested on 6th June, 1932, and brutally tortured to death. His mother repeatedly asked for the post mortem report, but could not get it.

Gurudas Ram (1914-1934):— Born in the Firozpur district of Punjab. From his school boy day Gurudas first joined the Congress and then the revolutionaries. On 31st October, 1930, he threw a bomb at the Deputy Inspector General of Police, was arrested and sentenced to 3 years rigorous imprisonment. He was brutally tortured inside the jail and went on protest and hunger strike. He was tortured even then. But when the police realised that he was dying, they released him. Within a few days of his release, he died on 14th May, 1934

Santana Guha (1910-1934) :— She was born at Dibrugarh and educated at Shantiniketan. She was a fine writer and her "Agnimantre Nari" was confiscated by the Government. She was detained without trial from 1931. She was repeatedly punished for violating jail laws. In 1932, she went on 21 days hunger strike as a protest against the Hijli massacre. In Rajsahi jail she was brutally tortured and on 19th December, 1934, she died there.

Nabajiban Ghosh (Shalikh):— He was born in 1916. After the murder of Burge, the District Magistrate of Midnapore the Government tortured many families there. Nabajiban's brother, Nirmal Jiban was hanged. In 1933, Nabajiban was first externed from Midnapore and then in 1934, he was arrested in Calcutta. He was kept interned in Gopalgunge Police Station of the district of Faridpur. There on the 23rd September, he was killed as a result of brutal police torture.

The three martyrs of hunger strike in Andaman Cellular Jail (1933) :—

The revolutionary prisoners in the Andaman Cellular Jail in order to reduce somewhat their long years of agony in prison placed a charter of demands before the Chief Commissioner in 1933 These included (1) better food (2) arrangement for better lights and (3) the right to read books and magazines The Chief Commissioner gave a terse arrogant reply "NO" The prisoners started a fast unto death The prisoners were tied hand and feet and forced feeding was on the other hand attempted through the nose On the 43rd Day of hunger strike came a satanic order for stopping giving of drinking water Brutal attempts at forced feeding of milk led to puncture of the lungs and death of 3 prisoners These 3 martyrs were



Mahabir Singh



Mohit Moitra



Jatindramohan Sengupta in death bed

Mahabir Singh Rathore (convicted for life in the Lahore Conspiracy Case) died on 18th May, 1933

Mohit Moitra (sentenced to 5 years R I under the Arms Act) died on the 28th May, 1933

Mohan Kishore Namodas (sentenced for life) died on the 26th May, 1933

The news of hunger strike of the Andaman prisoners and the martyrdom of three of them reached India The Congress and other political parties Rabindranath and even Gandhiji, all tried to end hunger strike Students, youth and the common people took to street demonstration After 46 days of hunger strike some of the demands were accepted Food was substantially improved, light came to every cell and many books were made available— all these at the cost of 3 invaluable lives

Those who escaped from jails between 1931 and 1934 :

In 1931, Phani Dasgupta and Nalini Das escaped from the Hijli Detention Camp

In 1932, Dinesh Majumder, Sachin Kargupta and Susil Dasgupta escaped from the Midnapore Central Jail.

In 1933, Jiten Gupta and Krishna Chakraborty escaped from the Buxa Detention Camp

In 1933, Dhiren Das and Niranjan Mukherjee escaped from the Berhampore Detention Camp

In 1934, Purnananda Dasgupta, Niranjan Ghosal, Sitanath De Haripada De escaped from the Alipore Central Jail

In 1934, the outstanding communist leader Dr Gangadhar Adhikari escaped from the Bijapur Fort

Long before all these two dare devil activists of the Anusilan Samity, Kanta Ghosh and Probodh Biswas escaped from the notorious Dalanda House in December, 1916

In April, 1917, revolutionary Probodh Dasgupta also escaped from the same place.

In 1921, Baba Prithvi Azad serving long sentences in the Ist Lahore Conspiracy Case jumped from the train while coming from Madras to Calcutta in an attempt to escape, but was rearrested. Next year in 1922, when he was being taken to Nagpur jail from Raj Mandri jail he again jumped out of a running train. But this time he could not be caught.

A few other leaders of the Communist Party at its early stage



Abdur Razzak Khan



Somenath Lahiri



Abdul Halim



Dr Ranen Sen



Saroj Mukherjee



Bhabani Sen



Nripen Chakraborty



Harekrishna Konar



Biswanath Mukherjee



S Mirajkar



In 1933 Communist Party was reorganised with Dr Gangadhar Adhikari as secretary



B.T Randhive



Ajoy Kumar Ghose



R D. Vardwaj



Baba Santokh Singh Organizer of Communist Party in Punjab



Amir Haider Khan organizer of Communist Party in South India



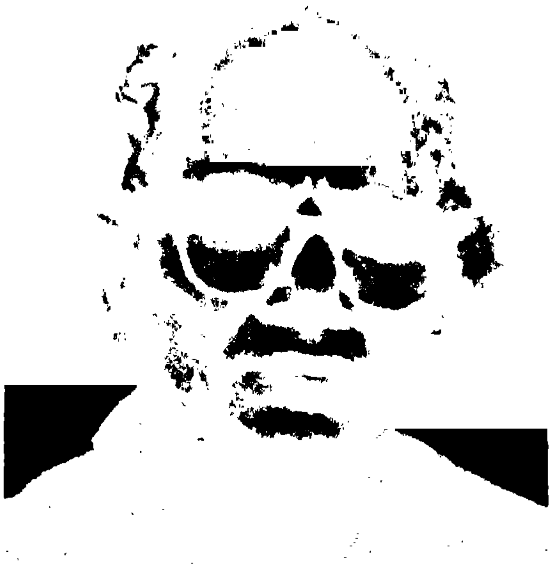
E M.S Namboodripad



P Krishna Pillai



A.K. Gopalan



P. Sunderaiya



M. Basabpunnaiya

Last phase of the Civil Disobedience Movement (1933-1934) and a new situation :

The desperate struggle by the rank and file without any leadership gradually slowed down. In July, 1933, Gandhiji wanted to meet the Viceroy, but the latter refused. The Working President of the Congress dissolved all the Congress organisations and cleared the path for compromise. In 1934 in a statement Gandhiji declared henceforth mass Civil Disobedience would be replaced by his lone satyagraha. After this, in the Patna Session of the A.I.C.C. arrangements were made for unconditional withdrawal of the Civil Disobedience movement. In June, 1934, the Government lifted the ban from the Indian National Congress, but an exception was made in the case of Red Shirt Organisation of the North West Frontier, the militant Kisan Sabha as also the radical Youth League.

On the other hand, the Meerut arrests had not only beheaded the Communist Movement, but politically damaged it. Temporarily the A.I.T.U.C. and even the Communist Party was split in two. But immediately after their release of the Meerut comrades, they quickly reforged the unity of the party and the trade unions. A great strike wave engulfed the Bombay Textile Workers.

Most of the rank and file, Congress workers and a number of leaders were deeply resentful at the unconditional withdrawal of the Civil Disobedience movement. Some tilted towards the socialist ideas. In 1934, in October, the socially-oriented Congressmen met in a Conference and established the All India Congress Socialist Party. From its very name it was made clear that the new party would work within the Congress.



The Socialist Party High Command.

From left to right :

1. Ashok Mehta. 2. Sabrayan. 3. Ram Manohar Lohia. 4. Mohan Lal Gautam (since resigned). 5. Munshi Ahmeddin. 6. Sukhen Dutt. 7. Jaiprakash Narain. 8. Purshotamtrikam Das. 9. S. M. Joshi. 10. K. B. Menon. 11. Achyut Patwardhan. 12. Ram Nandan Mishra.



Jaiprakash Narayan and Acharya Narendra Deo

Three famous scientists of India :

Chandrasekhar Venkataraman (1888-1970) :

In 1924, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and in 1928 came his famous discovery "The Raman Effect". He won the Nobel Prize in 1930.

Meghnad Saha (1893-1956) :

In 1920, he discovered the Heat Ion Theory. In 1927, he became F.R.S. He was the founder of many scientific institutions and really speaking, "Father of National Planning in India".



Chandrasekhar Venkataraman



Meghnad Saha



Satyendranath Bose

Satyendranath Bose (1894-1974):

His Joint Path-finding work with Einstien led to the Bose-Einstien Theory. His contribution in the field of Quantum Mathematics is remarkable. He became a F.R.S. in 1958

Peoples movement in some of the princely states:

In the mid 1930's in quite a few princely states the people become restive. Of these, the movement led by *Rani* Guidalo of Monipur took the character of a mass upsurge. Together with her cousin Jadonanga, she led an anti-British upsurge in the border area of Monipur, Assam and Nagaland. The British hanged Jadonanga on 29th August, 1931. Yet the movement did not subside. The movement took the new dimension by fighting begansystem and by refusing to pay taxes For a long time the Government failed to arrest the Rani despite pursuing a policy of savage repression. The Deputy Commissioner of Naga Hills J.P. Mills, S.D.O. of Halflong, high officers Monipur and the 3rd and 4th Divisions of the Assam Rifles together fought against her and announced a big reward for her capture. The British burnt down many villages and arrested many people. Ultimately on 17th October, 1932, they were able to capture the Rani. She was handcuffed and a rope was put around her waist. She was taken first to Kohima and then to Imphal. After ten long months of trial, she was sentenced to transportation for life. When India became free in 1947, she was released from the jail. Yet, she was never allowed to visit her own village in Monipur.



Rani Guidalo



Sheikh Abdullah



Dr K.M. Asraf

In October, 1932, Sheikh Abdullah went to attend the Muslim Conference in Kashmir and soon he established contact with the Democratic Unity leader of Kashmir P.N. Bajaj. Six years later the Muslim Conference became National Conference On 13th July, 1931, the young Sheikh Abdullah led a huge mass demonstration to the Srinagar jail The police shot dead 21 people.

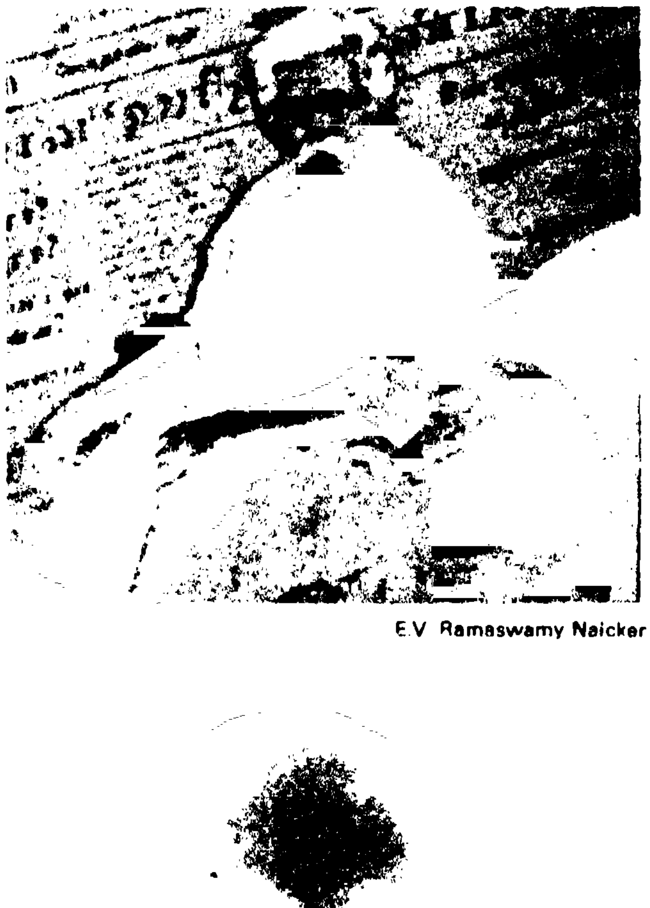
In Rajasthan in Alwar, the peopleof the Segu tribe started a mass struggle in 1931. Despite the mischievous effort of Mahammad Yamin Khan, efforts were made to inject communalism into our politics, Dr. K.M. Asraf, who became famous as a Marxist Historian, later on determinedly kept the movement secular. The unity and determination of the movement ultimately succeeded in forcing in British to remove the oppressive Maharaja

In July 1931, in a small princely state called Puducottah near Trichinapalli, people's rule prevailed for a few days. The people protested against new taxes, burnt all court deeds and worsted the military. They also released the prisoners from jail (Modern India, 1885-1947, Page 140).

The Peasants Disobedience Movement in the Civil Disobedience, some facets:

In Bihar in 1929, the Kisan Sabha was founded by Swami Sahajananda. During the civil disobedience movement, one of his closest comrades Jadunandan Sharma built up a strong Kisan Sabha in the district of Gaya. The peasant movement grew up in Andhra Pradesh also, particularly in the areas where Zamindars Predominated. The same was true for Orissa. In Andhra Pradesh, the Zaminders tried to take away in 1931 the century old rights of peasants, to graze cattle and collect fuel from forest areas. As a protest against this a massive forest satyagraha was started already by Ramananda and Professor Ranga. In Central and South India, similar powerful satyagraha movement started among varios tribal peoples like the Gonds and the Korkus. In the Central provinces forest satyagraha led to attack against police outposts. In Uttar Pradesh despite the warning of Gandhiji Kalka Prosad and Anjali Kumar started a 'no-rent campaign' in Raiberily.

The movement against untouchability



E.V Ramaswamy Naicker



P. Jivanandan

In 1932, side by side with the Harijan movement led by Gandhiji, an anti-Brahmin self-respect movement led by EV Ramaswamy Naicker (known to everyone as Periar) spread rapidly in Tamilnadu which was plagued with untouchability. This was far more militant than the movement led by the Pro-Government Justice Party. From whatever outlook, this was a bit socialistic particularly, after Periar toured the Soviet Union in 1932. Ultimately, this movement generated and it also grew through such outstanding communist leaders like P. Jivanandan. In Kerala in November, 1931, on the demand of entry of everyone inside Guru Dayur temple, a movement was launched by the Congress leader Kelappan. This received tremendous response and volunteers came to join it from Malabar, Travancore and Cochin. This movement was ultimately withdrawn in September, 1932, under the directive of Gandhiji. A leading activist of this movement became famous later on as the outstanding communist leader A.K. Gopalon.



'Jatasur' (Demon of the crushing machine)
Artist : Gaganendra Nath Tagore

The new Constitution of India of 1935:

In the background of all these, in 1935, the British Government announced a New Constitutional Act for India. In general, the people expressed their indignation against the Act of 1935. Particularly, sharp were the criticisms against the proposed Central Federal Legislature and the Government which was to be composed of feudal princes and general representatives including muslims to be elected on the basis of separate electorate. No doubt, the civil disobedience movement had been called off, yet, the working class, the peasantry and the backward classes were clearly restive. Vithalbhai Patel and Subhas Chandra Bose from exile abroad had sharply criticised the calling off of the movement. Now they and their followers, the illegal communist party, the Congress Socialist Party and the followers of M.N. Roy become vocal in their criticism against the New Constitutional Act. After 1935, these forces in their totality, came to be known as **Leftists.**

Inside the Congress leaders like Satyamurti, Bhulabhai Desai, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy Dr. Ansari, etc. were attracted towards the New Constitution because by the Act of 1935, power in the main, had been transferred in the hands of elected representatives in the provinces (the Governor, of course, having certain special powers). These leaders were now joined by a well known no-changer leader Raja Gopalachari and gradually other orthodox Gandhian leaders. This became explicit in the presidential address of Dr. Rajendra Prosad in the Bombay Session of the Congress. From now on, these leaders were lumped together as **Rightists.**

Surely, the only way of determining who were leftists and who were rightists was not only on the basis of a leader's attitude towards the New Constitution. The line of demarcation between left and the right gradually became clear and distinct around certain questions while on many other issues they remained vague.

From the presidential address of Jawaharlal Nehru at Lucknow (April, 1936) and Faizpur (December, 1936):

"Thus we see world divided up into two vast groups today--the imperialist and fascist on one side, the socialist and nationalist on the other... Where do we stand then, who labour for free India? Inevitably, we take our stand with the progressive forces of the world who are ranged agains fascism and imperialism. We have to deal with one imperialism in particular, the oldest and the most far-reaching of the modern world...



Jawaharlal, president of Lucknow Congress



Jawaharlal at Faizpur conference

How does socialism fit in with the present ideology of the Congress ? I do not think it does. I believe in the rapid industrialisation of the country and only thus I think will the standards of the people raise substantially and poverty be combatted. Yet, I have co-operated whole-heartedly with the Khadi programme and I hope to do so in the future because I believe Khadi & Village industries have a definite place in our economy.. but look upon them as temporary experience of a transition rather than as solution of our vital problems...

I am convinced that the only solution of our political and communal problems will come through a constituent Assembly, provided it is elected on adult franchise—on a mass basis. That Assembly will not come into existence only when a semi-revolutionary situation has been created in this country and the actual relationships of power and apart from paper Constitution, are such that the people of India can make their will felt .

The world is filled with rumours and alarms of war. In Abyssinia bloody and cruel war has already gone on for many months and we have watched a new war hungry predatory imperialism behaves in its search for colonial domains... In the Far East war hovers on the horizons and we see that Eastern imperialism advancing methodically and pitilessly over ancient China and dreaming of world empire" (Jawaharlal Nehru, Lucknow, April, 1936).

"The only logical consequence of the Congress policy is to have nothing to do with offices and the ministry. Any deviation from this would mean a reversal of that policy. It would inevitably mean a kind of partnership with British imperialism. .

The real task before us is to build up a powerful joint front of all the anti-imperialist forces in the country...Active participation of the organised workers and peasants in such a front would add to its strength and must be welcomed". (Nehru, Faizpur, December, 1936).

The international background that helped Nehru to shape progressive policies was the growth of anti-fascist anti-war consciousness throughout the world, after Hitler's conquest of power in Germany. Its reflection was found in the resolutions of the Comintern and in the speech of General Secretary Dimitrov at the 7th Congress of the Communist International (1935) and the joint thesis on India by Ex-Meerut prisoner Benjamin Bradley and the communist leader Rajani Palme Dutt.

At Faizpur Congress President Jawaharlal Nehru's proposal for getting workers and peasants organisations collectively affiliated to the Congress was defeated in the A.I.C.C. by 35 to 16 votes. The Congress did not take a stand on the question of acceptance of office, but the trends of the dominant leadership was clearly for the acceptance of office. In fact, in July 1937 the Congress formed provincial ministries in 7 provinces after getting certain assurances from the Governor about limited use of their special powers.



Dr Suresh Banerjee



Leaders of All India Kisan Sabha
Bottom centre Muzaffar Ahmed
On left Jamaluddin Bukhari

Re-forging of working-class unity (1935-38):

Two consecutive splits took place in the Indian Trade Union movement between 1928 and 1931. On two sides of the A.I.T.U.C. grew up the National Federation of Trade Union (1928) led by N M. Joshi and V.V. Giri (1928) and on the other the communist led Red Trade Union Federation (1931). However, the new international situation spurred the Indian Trade Union movement to new efforts to achieve unity. The Meerut prisoners were released in August 1933 and they strengthened the unity trend. Between 1935 and 1938, the unity efforts were completely successful and the entire Indian working-class was re-united again under the banner of A.I.T.U.C.

The emergence of certain mass organisation in 1936: All India Kisan Sabha (April 1936):

After 1925, particular in Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, the communists through the workers and peasants party organised some local struggles on the basis of peasants demand. In 1929, November, Swami Sahajanand on the basis of a few demands started Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha. After 1934, the Congress socialists became active in this field. In January, 1936, during the Meerut Conference of the C.S.P., some leaders of the party resolved to set up an all India Kisan Organisation with professor N.G. Ranga of Andhra and Jaiprakash Narayan as Joint Secretaries.

That is how during the Lucknow Session of the Congress itself from a convention of the provincial delegates themselves, All India Kisan Sabha was born on 11 April, 1936, (A.I.K.S.). Swami Sahajanand presided over the convention and among others who were present: Professor Ranga (Andhra), Indulal Yagnik (Gujarat), Mohanlal Gautam and K.M. Asraf (Uttar Pradesh), Sohan Singh Josh and Ahmed Din (Punjab), Kamal Sarkar and Sudhin Pramanik (Bengal) and the two outstanding C.S.P. leaders Jaiprakash Narayan and Dr. Ram Monohar Lohia.

All India States' peoples' Conference and a new wave of unrest:

Although the All India States' Peoples' Conference had been established in 1927 in Bombay, its work had so long been confined to petitions only. In 1936 its annual session was held under the presidentship of Jawaharlal Nehru and he championed some of the demands of the Peasantry from their platform.

All India Students' Federation (April, 1936):

In April, 1936. At Lucknow 186 students delegates got together to form the All India Students Federation (A.I.S.F.). The conference was inaugurated by Jawaharlal Nehru and was presided over by Mahammad Ali Jinna. The manifesto adopted in the A.I.S.F. conference declared "Students have to be prepared politically, socially and economically so that they become able to join this struggle for liberating mankind".

To encourage cultural and intellectual co-operation on equal terms between the students of various Provinces and Indian states, to suggest improvement in the present educational system, to safeguard the rights of the students community, to prepare the students for citizenship in order to take a due share in the struggle for complete National Freedom, by organising their political, economical, and social consciousness, an organisation of the students of India to be formed, to be named All India Students' Federation.

Resolution adopted in the 1st All India Students Conference, 1936

"বিভিন্ন প্রদেশ ও ভারতীয় রাজ্যগুলির ছাত্রদের সমানাধিকারের ভিত্তিতে সংস্কৃতি ও চিন্তাগত সহযোগিতার ক্ষেত্রে উৎসাহিত করা, বর্তমান শিক্ষাব্যবস্থার উন্নতিবিধানে পরামর্শ দেওয়া, ছাত্রসমাজের অধিকারকে সুরক্ষিত করা, ছাত্রদের রাজনৈতিক, অর্থনৈতিক ও সামাজিক সচেতনতা সংগঠিত করে পূর্ণ জাতীয় স্বাধীনতা অর্জনের সংগ্রামে স্বীয় অংশগ্রহণের উদ্দেশ্যে তাঁদের নাগরিক হিসাবে তৈরি করার জন্যে 'নিখিল ভারত ছাত্র ফেডারেশন' নামে ভারতের ছাত্রদের একটি সংগঠন প্রতিষ্ঠা করা হোক।"

—১৯৩৬ সালে প্রথম নিখিল ভারত ছাত্র সম্মেলনে গৃহীত প্রস্তাব

Resolution adopted in the All India Student Conference



Some delegates at the All India Progressive Writers Association

All India Progressive Writers' Association (A.I.P.W.A.) 1936

In April, 1936, at Lucknow, under the presidentship of the famous Hindi writer Munsi Premchand, an Indian writers' conference took place. Smt Sarojini Naidu spoke at the meeting as also the famous Urdu writer Mohani Hasarat and such eminent persons like Dr. Mulkraj Anand, Hirendranath Mukherjee, Dr Alim, Mrs Rashida Jehan etc. The famous Urdu writer Sajjad Zaheer was elected General Secretary.

All India Civil Liberties Union (1937):

In July, 1936, under the initiative of Jawaharlal, an All India Civil Liberties Union was set up. At his request the poet Rabindranath Tagore agreed to become its Honorary President and Smt. Naidu as the working President. Towards the close of the thirties this organisation as well as the poet Tagore took many successful initiative in this field.

For Spain against Fascism:

In July 1936, General Franco organised an armed revolt against the popularly elected republican Government of Spain. From the outset Hitler and Musolini openly supported Franco and supplied him with arms and money while Britain and France under cover of ticky slogan of non-intervention, in reality strangled republican Spain. Communists all over the world, socialists and true democrats took a determined stand in support of Spain. The Indian National Congress condemned not only Hitler and Musolini, but also British and French imperialism which were indirectly helping fascism.



Nehru and Krishna Menon in Barcelona with General Lister between them

To express solidarity with embattled Spain, Jawaharlal Nehru went to Barcelona with Krishna Menon. In the photograph one can see the famous Spanish General Lister standing between them.

The impassioned appeal of Rabindranath Tagore to the conscience of mankind for unstinted help to Spain.(below)

TO THE CONSCIENCE OF HUMANITY.

"In Spain, the world civilisation is being menaced and trampled under foot. Against the democratic government of the Spanish people, Franco has raised the standard of revolt. International Fascism is pouring men and money in aid of the rebels. Moors and foreign legionaries are sweeping over the beautiful plains of Spain, trailing behind them death, hunger and desolation.

"Madrid, the proud centre of culture and art, is in flames. Her priceless treasures of art are being bombed by the rebels. Even hospitals and creches are not spared. Women and children are murdered, made homeless and destitute.

"This devastating tide of International Fascism must be checked. In Spain this inhuman recrudescence of obscurantism, of racial prejudice, of rapine and glorification of war must be given the final rebuff. Civilisation must be saved from its being swamped by barbarism.

At this hour of the supreme trial and suffering of the Spanish people, I appeal to the conscience of humanity.

Help the people's front in Spain, help the Government of the people, cry in million voices 'Halt' to reaction, come in your millions to the aid of democracy, to the succour of civilisation and culture.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE



Gopal Mukunda Huddar

To help the Spanish Republic International Brigade was formed with the cream of the revolutionary youth of the world. A young communist from Maharashtra Gopal Mukanda Huddar joined and fought in that brigade.

League against Facism and War (1937)

Responding to an appeal by Romain Rolland and Henri Barbusse a League against Fascism was also set up in India with Rabindranath as its President and Soumendra Tagore as General Secretary.



Romain Rolland and Rabindranath

LEAGUE AGAINST FASCISM AND WAR

An Indian Committee of the League Against Fascism and War was set up in Calcutta with the following office bearers

President		Dr. Rabindranath Tagore
Chairman		Prof K. T. Shah
Vice-President		S. Brelvi, Editor, Bombay Chronicle
K. Santanam		Editor, Madras Daily Express
R. S. Ruikar	.	Vice-President, AITUC
Tusharkanti Ghose		Editor, A. B. Patrika
Dr Dhiren Sen		Editor, Advance
Jayprakash Narain	:	General Secretary, C. S. Party
Surendranath Goswami		Secretary, P. W. A., Bengal
Sajjad Zaheer	:	Secretary, All India PWA
Sibnath Banerjee	:	President AITUC
Prof. N. G. Ranga		President, All India Peasants' League
Swami Sahajananda	.	Secretary, All India Peasants' League
Indulal Yagnik	:	Secretary, All India Peasants' League

S. A. Dange, P. Y. Deshpande, Dr Sumant Mehta (President, Baroda Rajmandal), Mia Iftikaruddin, Nabokrishna Choudhury (Secretary, C. S. P. Orissa), Kamala Debi

Soumendranath Tagore	:	General Secretary

List of members of its Organising Committee



General Secretary Soumendra Nath Tagore

Message of Eminent Indians to World Peace Congress

"On our own behalf, as well as on behalf of our countrymen, we raise our voices in chorus with people of other countries and declare : we hate war, we want to reject war for war service no purpose of ours. We are totally opposed to India's joining an Imperialist War, for we know that the next war may well destroy human civilisation"

Rabindranath Tagore, Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, Ramananda Chattopadhyay, Naresh Chandra Sengupta, Jawaharlal Nehru, Prafulla Chandra Roy, Pramatha Chowdhury, Nandalal Bose, Premchand and others, 14 Bhadra 1343 B.S. (1936).

The work of the elected Governments formed under the new Act in 1937.

After its election victory and after getting assurance from the Governor that they would not misuse their special powers, in July, 1937, the Congress formed ministries in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bombay, Madras and a little later in North-West Frontier provinces and Assam. In March, 1938, Allah Bux formed a ministry in Sindh with the help and support of the Congress. In Bengal and Punjab the ministries were formed respectively under Fazlul Haq of the Krishak Proja Party and Sikandar Hyat Khan of the Unionist Party.

The countrymen expected from the elected ministries that they would immediately release all political prisoners. In February, 1938, on this issue the Congress ministries in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar temporarily resigned and got massive popular support. On the other hand, the political prisoners of the Andaman Cellular Jail went on a hunger strike unto death from the 25th July, 1937, on the three-fold demand of (a) release of all political prisoners (b) immediate repatriation of the Andaman prisoners and (c) untill their release all political prisoners must at least be given division II classification. Nearly 3,000 political prisoners all over India joined the strike. The whole country became restive. Rabindranath Presided over a huge public meeting in the town hall of Calcutta.

Retreating before rising tide of the movement, repatriation of the Andaman prisoners was announced and on the 37th day they ended their hunger strike. Within a month they were brought back to India but as prisoners. However, the Governor gave assurance that after individual scrutiny prisoners would be rapidly released. After this assurance the Congress ministers withdrew their resignation. In Bengal the people, particularly the students played a heroic role in hastening the release of the prisoners.



Subhaschandra in student demonstration demanding release of all political prisoners



Protest demonstration against the Trade Dispute Act

In 1938, a students demonstration in the streets of Calcutta under the leadership fo Subhas Chandra Bose, the elected President of the Congres, was demanding the release of political prisoners. In the photo can be seen besides Subhas Chandra Bose the student leader Biswanath Mukherjee.

The Congress ministries released some prisoners and changed some of the arbitrary measures of running the administration. At First, they also showed some sympathetic attitude towards the demands of workers and peasants. But within a short time even the Congress ministries more and more adopted repressive measures to suppress strike and seditious speeches (Madras Ministry from October 1937).

Two examples

(a) In November, 1938, the Congress ministry in Bombay passed the Trade Disputes Act in the Assembly where 6 months imprisonment for participating in illegal strikes was included and made non-recognised unions work extremely difficult. Many workers demonstrations came out protesting against this Act and on 6th November, in the protest rally, 80,000 workers turned up.

(b) At first, the Congress ministry tried to reduce the burden of debt on the peasantry, but they forgot the resolutions passed by the Uttar Pradesh and Bihar provincial Congress committees in 1936 and 1937 for abolishing the Zamindari system. The Fazlul Haq ministry in Bengal seriously tried to reduce the burden of debt on the peasantry, but remained silent on the



Rahul Sankrityan handcuffed and rope tied round his waist

recommendation of the Floud Commission for abolishing the Zamindari system with compensation. In Bihar in the district of Monghyr on the demand of return of Bakhast land massive peasants' upsurge took place from 1936 to 1939 under the leadership of Swami Sahajananda and Karyananda Sharma (later on a famous communist leader). The Government adopted a policy of brutal repression against this movement.

The working-class movement in India in 1937-38:

The largest working-class struggle in this period was the 74 day long jute workers general strike in Bengal (26th February to 10th May, 1937). With the help of the slump in 1936 the jute mill owners were making fat profit. The workers demanded that wage cut effected during the period of the slump should now be restored and all retrenched workers reinstated. 2,25,000 jute workers participated in this general strike. The jute strike committee that led this struggle had as its member leaders like Bankim Mukherjee, Muzaffar Ahmed, Niharendu Dutt Mazumder, Shibnath Banerjee, etc. Subhas Chandra Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru and even Rabindranath Tagore lent their public support to the strike. The strike was withdrawn on 10th May, 1937, on the basis of the assurance given by Maulabi Fazlul Haq, Chief Minister of Bengal.



Leaders of labour strike Muzaffar Ahmed and Bankim Mukherjee

Tagore's press statement in support of Jute General Strike

"It has deeply grieved me to learn of the suffering of hundreds of thousands of Jute workers who have struck work since February last. This is causing misery not only to the workers themselves but also to their women and children. The demands of higher wages and for more human conditions of work are just and reasonable....... Humanity demands that those who bear the burden of society should be protected and looked after by the society itself."

(Statement of Jute Strike 1937)
by Rabindranath Tagore



Sukumar Banerjee

Next to Bengal came Bombay and then Madras. In Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), the textile workers started a strike against retrenchment and for wage increase and soon that became a general strike of 40,000 textile workers. Here, the Congress ministry headed by Gobinda Ballav Pant tried to break the strike by using police repression (just like Bengal) but had to come to terms later on and set up an enquiry committee. Strike wave engulfed also Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab.

Haq ministry in Bengal went back on its assurance and in 1938, 90,000 went on strike again. 14,000 steel workers went on strike in Kulti and Hirapur.

In 1938, the official enquiry committee for textile workers at Kanpur recommended a minimum wage of Rs. 15/-per months and an annual increment but the mill owners rejected that recommendation and cancelled the recognition of the Kanpur Mazdur Sabha. As a result 46,000 textile workers of Kanpur went on general strike. After 52 days, the mill owners were forced to accept the recommendation of the enquiry committee.

Almost all the strikes of this period were conducted under the joint leadership and they were able to win their demands. But both the Millowners and the Government unleashed a terrible policy of repression to break this strike. This becomes clear if we refer to the case of 2 martyrs (a) in the district of Hoshiarpur in Punjab, the revolutionary Hazara Singh was detained in Lahore Jail from 1931. He escaped from that jail and was involved in the Ootkamand Bank Loot Case for which he was given a 10 years prison sentence and was kept in Rajmundri jail. He tried to escape from there, was arrested and sent to Andaman. He was released in 1938, joined the Communist party and went to Tatanagar to organise the workers there. It was there that a police lorry crushed him to death while he was picketing during a strike.

(b) On 15th November, 1938, a British Officer in the Ranigunj Bollavpur Paper Mill in an attempt to break the strike there, was trying to enter the mill with some strike breaker. Sukumar Bandyopadhyay, Asstt. Secretary of the Paper Mill Union tried to resist and the British Officer drove his lorry over Sukumar killing him instantaneously.



Hazara Singh, he is seen in death bed at bottom

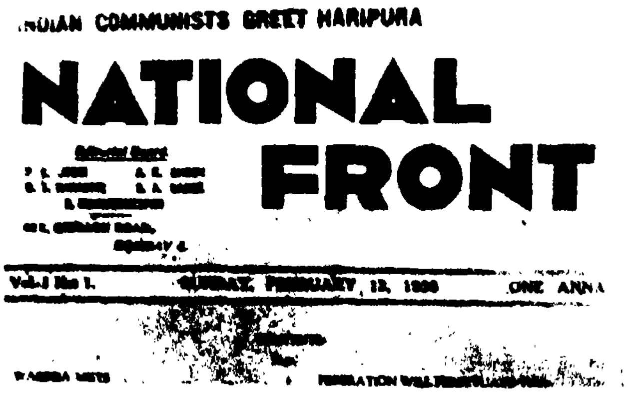
From the Congress Presidential address of Subhas Chandra Bose in 1938 and 1939:

'The British aristocracy and bourgeoisie exists primarily because there are colonies and overseas dependencies to exploit, the emancipation of the latter will undoubtedly strike at the very existence of the capitalist ruling classes in Great Britain and precipitate the establishment of a socialist order in Great Britain. It is impossible of achievement without the liquidation of colonialism. We, who are fighting for the political freedom of India and other enslaved countries to the British imperialists are incidentally fighting for the emancipation of the British people as well...

The Congress has time and again offered its sympathy and moral support to the movement carried on by the States' subjects for the establishment of a democratic Government in what is known as Indian India. It may be that at the moment our hands are so full that the Congress is not in a position to do more for our compatriots in our these states. But even today, there is nothing to prevent individual Congressmen from actively espousing the cause of the subjects and participating in their struggle. There are people in the Congress like myself who would like to see the Congress participating more actively in the movement of the State's subjects and participating in their struggles...

I know that there are friends who think that after freedom is won, the Congress party having achieved its objective, should wither away. Such a conception is entirely erroneous. The party that wins freedom for India should be also the party that will put into effect the entire programme of post-independence reconstruction".

(Presidential address of Subhas Bose at the Haripura Congress 1938)



Communist paper National Front greets Haripura Congress



Labour leader Santosh Kumari Devi



Subhaschandra president of Haripura Congress



Women leaders of Leftist and labour movement
Top row from left: Dr. Prabhabati Dasgupta, Bharati Ranga. Bottom row Kamala Devi Chattopadhya, Suhasini Jambekar, Bimal Prativa Devi

Three revolutionaries from Burma in Tripuri Conference



Harinarayan Ghosal, Amar Dey



Madhab Munsi

Tripuri (1939)

"The so called democratic powers in France and Great Britain have joined Italy and Germany in conspiring to eliminate Soviet Union from the European politics for the time being. .

With the Congress in power in 8 provinces, the strength and the prestige of our national organisation have gone up. The mass movement has made considerable headway throughout British India and last but not least, there is an unprecedented awakening in the Indian states. What more opportune moment could we find in our national history for a final advancement in the direction of Swaraj, particularly, when the international situation is favourable to us....We shall have to work in close co-operation with all anti-imperialist organisations in the country, particularly, the Kisan movement and the trade union movement. All of the radical elements in the country must work in close harmony and co-operation and the efforts of all anti-imperialist organisations must converge in the direction of a final assult on British imperialism"

(Subhas Chandra Bose's presidential address at Tripuri, 1939)

Ramgarh Congress and the Anti Compromise Conference:

In 1940, at Ramgarh the Congress met under the Presidentship of Abul Kalam Azad. Close by Subhas Chandra organised Anti Compromise Conference which was attended by a large peasant mass led by Swami Sahajananda The Congress Socialists, Royists and Communists attended the Ramgarh Congress. A delegation of Dobama Party from Burma attended the Session also.



President Abul Kalam Azad



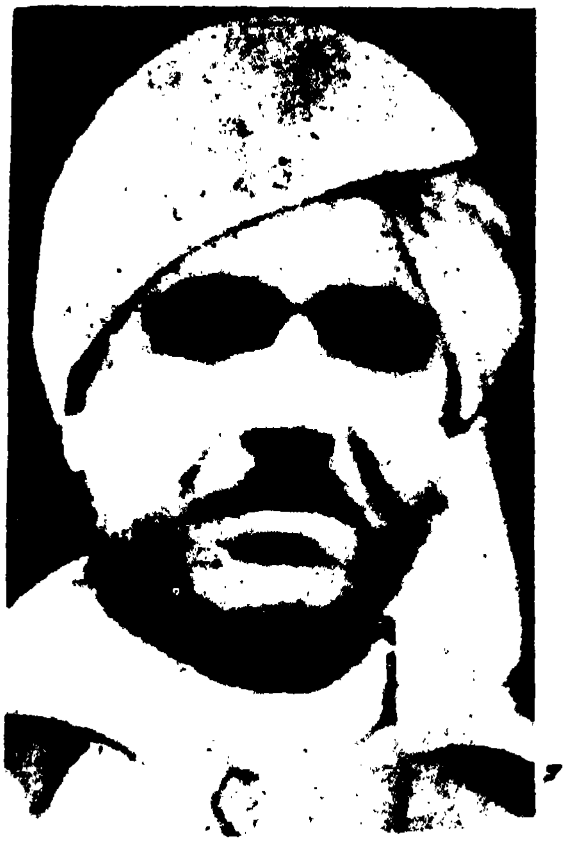
Representatives at Ramgarh Congress



Dobama Party delegations of Burma in Ramgarh Congress

Third from right Aung San first Prime Minister of Independent Burma

First from right Than Tun, later, general secretary of Burma Communist Party



Udham Singh

Udham Singh becomes a martyr

Udham Singh of India an engineering student in London shot dead. Sir Michel Odyar the notorious ex-Governor of Punjab responsible for Jalianwalabagh massacre, in a meeting at Buxton Hall, London on 13th March 1940. He was hanged to death in 1940



Leader of Punjab States Peoples movement, Thikriwala died in Patiala Jail

Peoples' movements in the princely states (1937-38):

Under the initiative of Jawaharlal Nehru, the All India States Peoples Conference in October, 1937 adopted a resolution supporting the mass movement in the princely state of Mysore. Next year in February, 1938, at the Haripura Congress it was declared for the first time unequivocally that the Congress ideal of Purna Swaraj was applicable not only to British India, but also to princely India.

In Mysore, the Gandhi-ite leaders of the States Peoples Conference started a movement for an elected Government and for legalisation of the States Peoples Conference. Within a few months, the movement took the shape of a huge mass struggle and police opened fire on a rally of 10 thousand people in the district of Monar and killed 30 persons. The very next month Sardar Patel hatched a compromise with Mirza Ismail, the Dewan of Mysore on the basis of the legalisation of the Congress. But as the other problems were not solved, the movement broke out again in September, 1939.

In Dhenkanal, Talcher, Nilgiri, Ranpur and other princely states of Orissa, the situation was far worse. Against this, the Adibasis started a militant struggle with bows and arrows. The British helped the princely rulers to suppress this movement brutally. Thousands of people fled from Talcher to adjoining areas to save their lives.

Some instances of the mass massacre while suppressing the movement at Talcher :

Baji Raut of Dhenkanal (1925-1938). On 10th October, 1938, the police and military while chasing the rebels, came to Nilkanthapur Ghat and ordered 13-year old boatman boy Baji Raut to help to cross the river Brahmani. Baji refused and the soldiers started bayonetting him and breaking the bones with the butt of their guns. Baji shouted out and warned the villagers. He died that night due to excessive bloodshed. The famous Oriya poet Sachi Raut Roy has written a long poem immortalising this boy here.

To protest against the death of Baji Raut, a huge rally was held on 10th October, 1938, at the Nilkanthapur Ghat and the police and military opened fire on it killing Phagu Sahoo and Geuri Sahoo and others. The Congress Socialist leader Nabakrishna Chowdhury (later on Congress Chief Minister of Orissa), his wife Malati Devi and the next leader Baishnabcharan Pattanayak led the Dhenkanal popular struggle. On 5th January, 1939, in the princely state of Ranpur, the British political agent Mayer Bazelgate opened fire on the people who gathered there. The people retaliated and killed Mayer by stone-throwing. Raghunath Mohanti and Dibakar Paridha



Martyrs of Kashmir states peoples movement



Martyr Baji Raut



Top 2 rows from left C Keshaban, from Travancore Anny Mashkerenis, Sugathan, Pattam Thannu Pillai Bottom row 2 martyrs of Orissa Raghunath Mohanti, Dibakar Paridha

were sentenced to death on the charge of murdering Bazelgate and were hanged on 4th April, 1940, inside Hazaribag jail.

The Congress Government was formed in the two southern princely states of Travancore and Cochin in 1937 and 1938. Within a short time the main driving force of the States Peoples Conference there were the socialists and the communists. On the other hand the main leader of autocracy of Travancore as the despotic Dewan Sir C.P. Ramaswami Ayre. The Congress leadership was lukewarm towards the struggle. The Leftists therefore, organised a Youth League and under its leadership, started a mass satyagraha from 6th Sept, 1938. The Youth League was banned, meetings, demonstrations, were prohibited. Despite such banns, hundreds of satyagrahis entered Travancore. The Jatha from Malabar was led by the famous communist leader A.K. Gopalan and from Madurai peasant Jatha was brought by the young communist leader, Pandyan. The police brutally lathichargea, seriously injured Gopalan and killed Pandyan. He was the first martyr in the struggle to establish democracy in Travancore. Among other leaders of the Jathas were K.C. George, Mahammad Yusuf and Ganapati Kamat. In 1938, the police opened fire on Satyagrahis 12 times and killed 15 young Leftists on the spot.

Indian Medical Mission to China:

When imperialist Japan invaded China, the Congress sent an Indian Medical Mission there in August, 1938. In the photograph can be seen in the front row (left to right) Dr. Cholkar, Dr. Atal (leader) and Dr. Bijoy Kumar Bose. In the back row (left to right) are Dr. Debesh Mukherjee and Dr. Kotnis. The Congress President Subhas Bose and Jawaharlal Nehru took particular initiative to send this Medical Mission to China. When the Mission was on its way to China by ship, Dr. Atal got a cable from the poet Rabindranath Tagore greeting them. Dr. Kotnis stayed back in China and died in 1943 while working as Doctor among the Chinese freedom fighters.



Indian Medical Mission in China front row (left to right) Dr Cholkar Dr Atal (leader), Dr Bijoy Bose Back row (left to right) Dr Debesh Mukherjee, Dr Kotnis



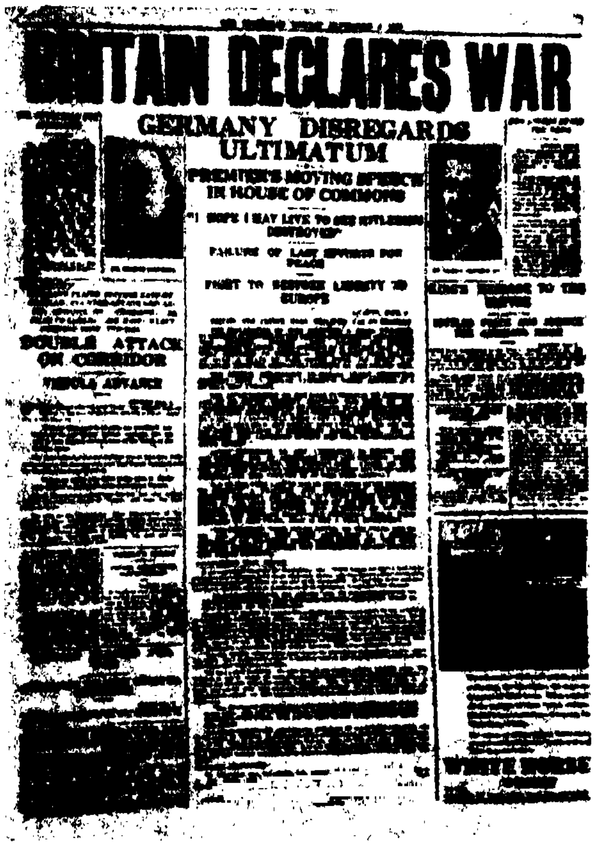
2 tombs side by side on left Dr Norman Bethune and on right Dr Kotnis

The Planning Commission formed by the Congress:

Under the initiative of President Subhas Chandra Bose, a National Planning Commission was established in 1938. Jawaharlal Nehru became its President. Its main aim was to plan out rapid economic development of the country after freedom was won. The main driving force behind this effort was of such eminent scientists like Dr. Meghnad Saha, Professor K T Saha and the famous Engineer of Mysore Bisweswaraia. Rabindranath blessed this effort from its very outset. The Gandhiite economist J.C. Kumarappa was also a member of this Commission. The Commission later on placed before the Congress President a massive 26 volume report.



Subhaschandra and Jawaharlal in Planning Commission meeting



BRITAIN DECLARES WAR

GERMANY DISREGARDS ULTIMATUM

PREMIER'S MOVING SPEECH IN HOUSE OF COMMONS

On the verge of 2nd Great War

The declaration of second world war and national crisis in India:

On the 1st September, 1939, Germany attacked Poland. Two days later on 3rd September, Britain and France declared war against Germany. The Viceroy at

once declared that India should stand by Britain in this war without consulting with the opinion of the Indian leaders. On 3rd September, by an Ordinance it was declared that henceforth the entire responsibility for keeping peace in India and for conducting war and all responsibilities shall rest upon the Central Government. All meetings and demonstrations were banned, press censored and arrangements were made to arrest people without warrants and keep them detained without trial



Anti war General Strike in Bombay



Jawaharlal at Chungking

The Bombay working-class observed the first anti-war General Strike during the 2nd World War:

On 2nd October, 1939, protesting against the autocratic behaviour of the British Indian Government, 90,000 workers of Bombay went on one-day protest political strike.



Left Consolidation Committee Subhaschandra in Centre and on his right Swami Sahajananda

The Congress in crisis:

In October, 1939, the Congress Working Committee met and advised all the Congress ministries to resign, which they did. Crisis inside the Congress deepened because already in 1939, the Congress had forced Subhas Chandra Bose to resign from the President's post. He had formed a new organisation inside the Congress called Forward Bloc. After this the Communists, Congress Socialists, Royists, and Sahajananda together with the Forward Bloc formed a Left Consolidation Committee

On 9th July, 1939, the L.C.C. gave a call for observing "Left Day" to protest against the undemocratic measures of the Congress leadership. In reply the Congress Working Committee expelled Subhas Chandra Bose from the Congress organisation for 6 years.

Division in the national camp

The united national front against the British imperialism now became divided into three distinct segments —

(a) The Congress led the 'Quit India Struggle' in August, 1942

(b) From Germany and later on from Japan Subhas Chandra Bose organised I.N.A. and

(c) The Anti-Fascist peoples war movement organised by the communist party.

The Quit India Movement (August, 1942):

On 9th August, 1942, A.I.C.C. passed by overwhelming majority the 'Quit India resolution (summary of text given). That very night the Congress Working Committee was arrested and was kept imprisoned in the palace of Aga Khan and the Ahmednagar fort. From the next day started the massive "Quit India Struggle"



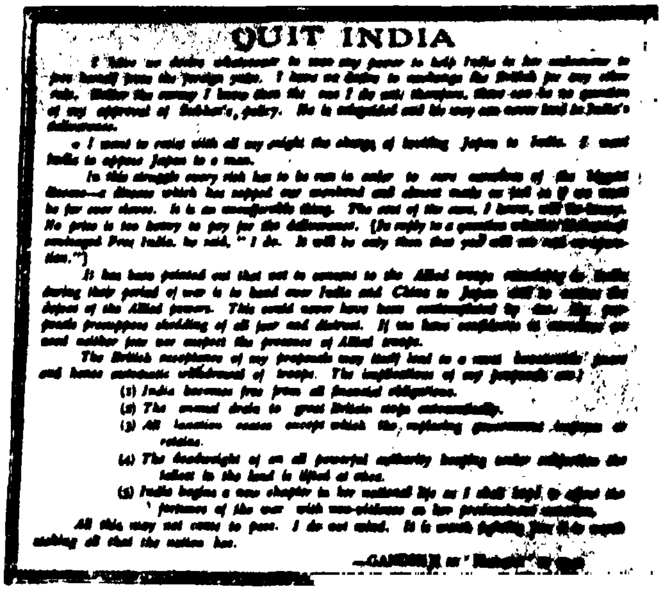
Gandhiji– Stafford Cripps could not come to a settlement



'Do or Die -- Gandhiji



Gandhiji, Sardar Patel and Jawaharlal discussing August proposal


QUIT INDIA

Gandhiji's "Quit India" article in Harijan periodical

Martyrs of the Quit India Struggle:

Among the numerous martyrs of the Quit India struggle who were killed by the bullets of the police and military were 72-year-old Gandhi-ite leader of Midnapore Matangini Hazra, the school student Kanaklata Barooah and housewife Bhogeswari Fuknani of Assam, the 16 year-old Srish Kumar of Gujarat and hundreds of others.

Among those who were hanged for participating in the Quit India struggle were Kusal Kunwar of Assam, Lakshman Nayak, Adibasi leader of Orissa, Rajnarayan Mishra, R.S.P. leader of Uttar Pradesh and Hemu Kalani student leader of Sindh. Among those who died in prison or in internment were Mahadev Desai (15.8.1942), Satyamurti (28.3.1943) and Kasturba Gandhi (23.2.1944).

According to a Government estimate at the end of 1942, the total number of arrested persons were 60,229. Those who were detained without trial—18,000, killed by the bullets of police and millitary 940, seriously injured-1,630.

Public estimate was that these are gross underestimation.



Jawaharlal moving "Quit India" resolution



People waiting outside with anxiety

The Government estimate further stated that the participants in this struggle destroyed 208 police stations, 332 railway stations, and 945 post offices. The Government unleashed a reign of brutal terror. Fire was rapidly resorted to from aeroplane in Bhagalpore and Monghyr in Bihar, Tamluk and Nadia in Bengal and Talcher in Orissa.

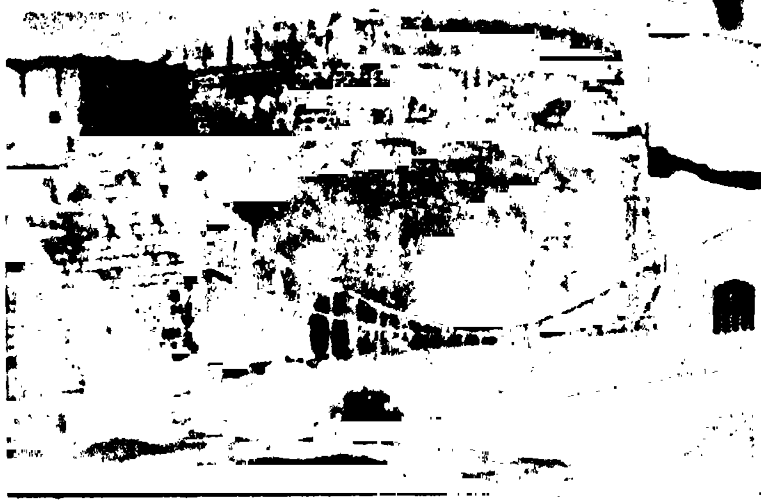
The Congress Socialist Party and some revolutionaries too played a significant part in struggle. In November, 1942, Jayprakash Narayan and three other C.S.P. leaders escaped from the Hazaribag Central Jail and soon contacted Ram Manohar Lohia, Achyut Patwardhan and Aruna Asaf Ali at three underground centres and continued the struggle. The B.V., Anusilan, Jugantar and the R.C.P.I. also joined this struggle. In a quite a few places of India, British rule collapsed for some time. A national government was formed in Tamluk in Bengal and Satara in Maharashtra.



Palace of Aga Khan



Pedestrian on Bombay road killed in police firing



Ahmednagar fort

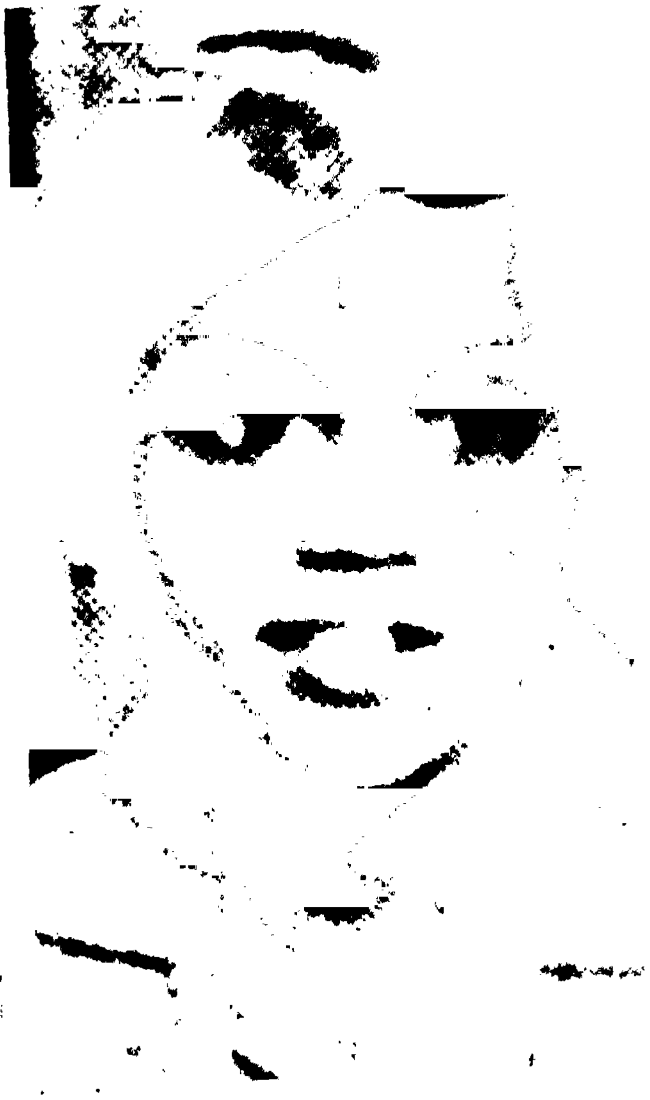


Teargas charged on public



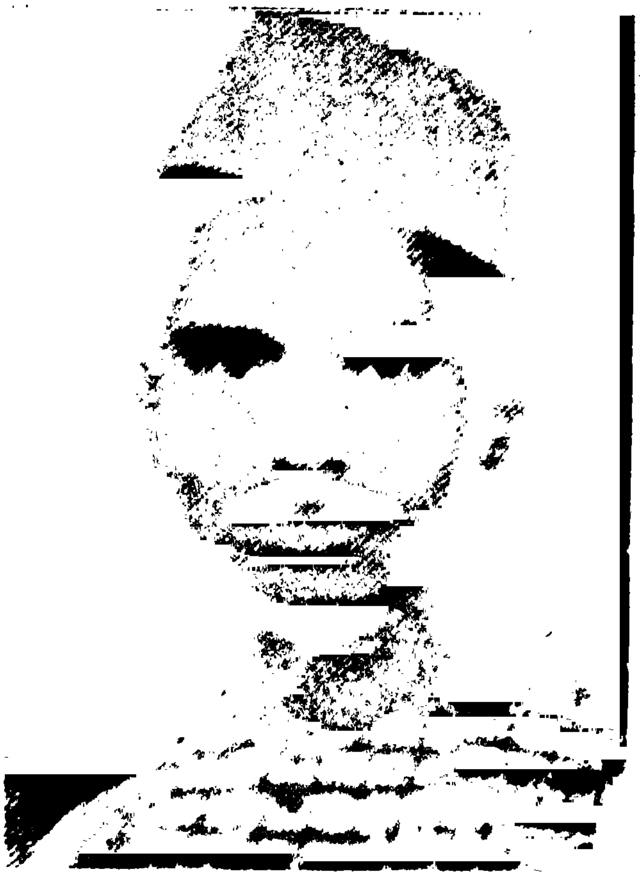
Martyr Matangini Hazra





Martyr Sris Kumar

Martyr Kanaklata Barua



Martyr Ramchandra Sutar



Martyr Bhogeswari Fuknani



Martyr Kusal Kunar



Martyr Hemu Kalani



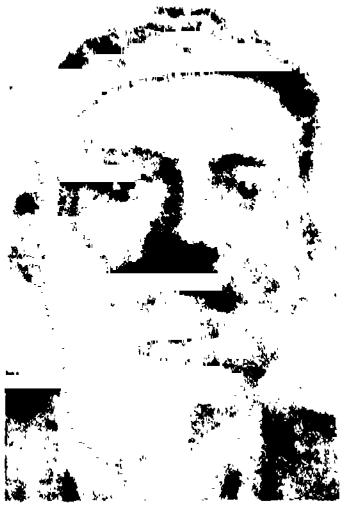
Martyr Bhaskar Karnic



Martyr Sankar Mahal hanged to death



Kumari Jayabati Sangvi



Martyr of Asthi Dr Gobind Malape



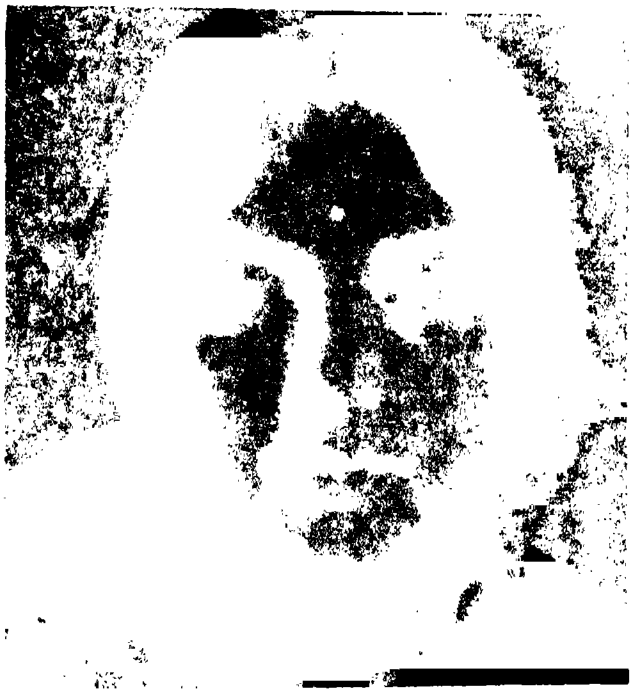
Martyr of Chimur Balaji Raipurkar


Jaiprakash Narayan


Sucheta Kripalani


Aruna Asaf Ali


Leaders of underground movement


Kamaladevi Chattopadhya

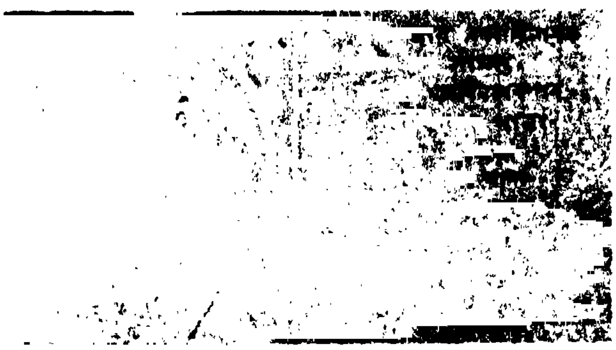


Usha Ben Mehta Director of a secret broadcasting station



Nityananda Singh

In the Balurghat town of Dinajpur the British rule collapsed for a single day. On 14th September, 1942, the Ist batch of Satyagrahis led by Saroj Ranjan Chatterjee, entered Balurghat town. The people burnt town courts, post offices and registry offices. They also cut the wires of telegraph line and distributed the entire rice from Governmental godown among poor people. In this struggle in Balurghat the santals took a major role. Armed with bows and arrows they attacked police parties.



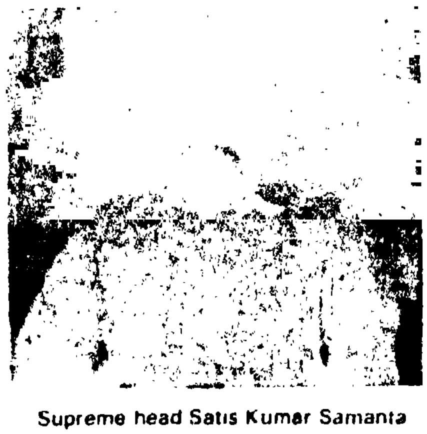
Seal of Independent Government of Tamralipta

Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar:

On 17th December, 1942, the *Tamralipta Sarkar* was established. On 26th January, 1943, local *Jatiya Sarkar* were established in Sutahata, Nandigram, Mohisadal and Tamluk under its jurisdiction. A *Bidyut Bahini* was also formed under this Government.

The supreme head of the Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar was Satish Chandra Samanta and among its prominent leaders were Ajoy Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Sushil Chandra Dhara, etc.

A similar Jatiya Sarkar also exists for one month in the two thanas of Potashpur and Khejuri in the sub-division of Contai.



Supreme head Satis Kumar Samanta



Ajoy Kumar Mukhopadhyay



Chaitu Pande

The Parti Sarkar in the district of Satara in Maharashtra:

In the Satara district of Maharashtra, a *Parti Sarkar* or parallel Government was established in nearly 400 villages. The activists destroyed railway line, cut telegraph wires and for all practical purposes made Satara free for quite a few months. The legendary leader of this Parti Sarkar was Nana Patil and other leaders were Pandu Master Amma Master, Srinath Lall and Dr. Uttam Rao.



Jharkand Rai



Nana Patil supreme head of Satara Sarkar (Government)

Azamgarh and Ballia in Uttar Pradesh:

In the two districts of Azamgarh and Ballia in Uttar Pradesh mass revolt made British rule collapse and parallel governments were established there. The most wellknown leaders of this revolt were Chaitu Pande, Jharkhand Rai and Sarju Pande. Jharkhand Rai and Sarju Pande later on joined the communist party.



Sarju Pande

Those of 1942 movement who died inside the jail



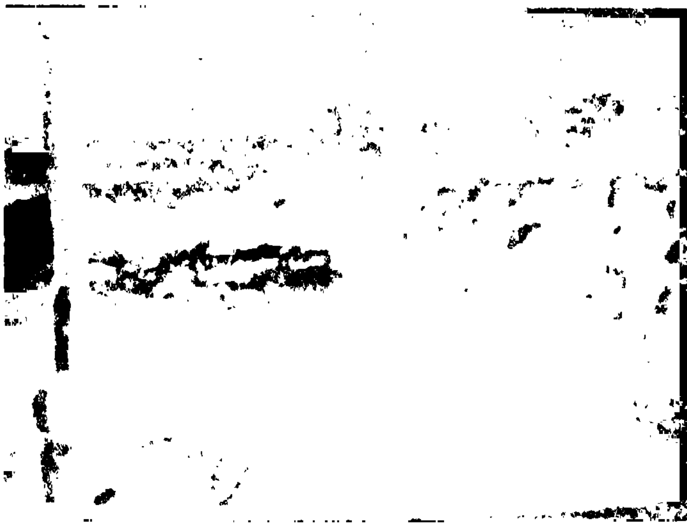
S. Satyamurti



Kasturba Gandhi



Mahadev Desai





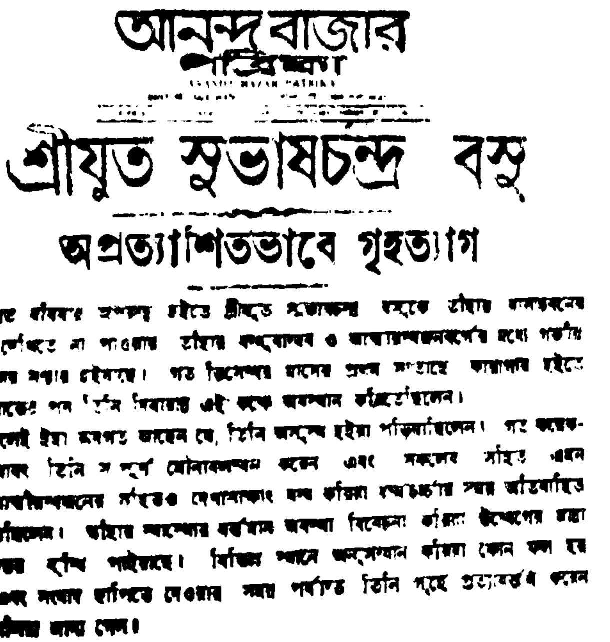
Tomb of Kasturba and Mahadev Desai

The I.N.A. movement of Subhas Chandra Bose:

On 16th and 17th January, 1941, homeinterned Subhas Chandra Bose, secretly left his house in Calcutta, went to Peshwar and then reached Kabul and 26th January. In the tribal area between Peshwar to Kabul his only companion during the journey was Bhagatram Talwar. Subhas Chandra Bose remained underground in Kabul for 45 days and then left in an Italian plane for Rome and then went to Berlin. In Germany Subhas Chandra Bose built up an Indian Army, published a newspaper and started radio speeches for consumption by Indians. In February, 1943, he left Germany and secretly in a submarine reached in island of Sumatra. On 4th July, 1943, the veteran Indian revolutionary Rash Behari Bose accepted him as the Supreme Commander. Within a short time Subhas was also elected the Supreme Commander of the I.N.A. and on 21st October, 1943, he established the Provisional Azad Hind Government. Subhas Chandra was elected President of the new Government. In the I.N.A. a Women's Battalian was also formed known as the Rani Jhansi Battalian led by Capt. Luxmi Bai. Between 29th and 31st December, 1943, Subhas Chandra visited the Andamans and



Ailing Subhaschandra in Elgin Road House



আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকা

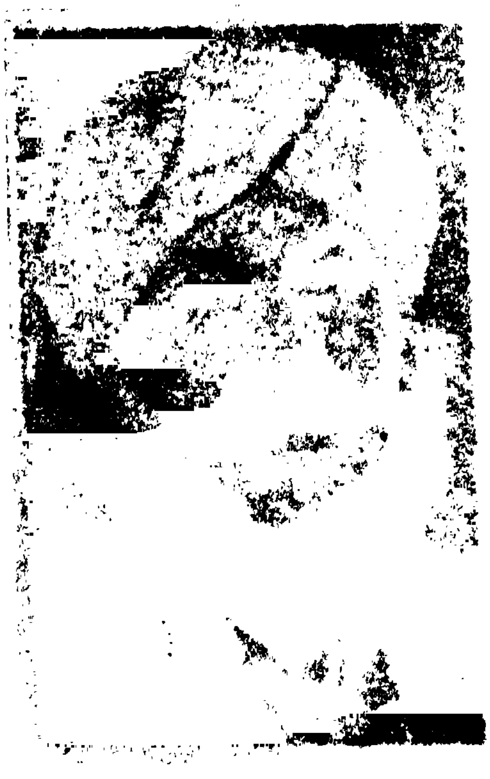
শ্রীযুত সুভাষচন্দ্র বসু

অপ্রত্যাশিতভাবে গৃহত্যাগ

The sudden disappearance of Subhas Chandra Bose from his Calcutta residence (From Ananda Bazar Patrika)



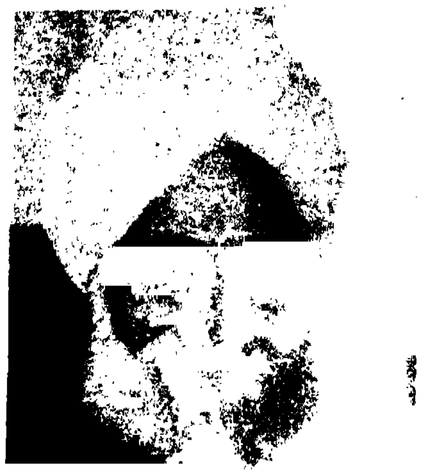
Bhagatram Talwar



Teja Singh Swatantra on his instruction Bhagatram helped Subhaschandra to reach Kabul



Comrade Ram Kissan. Worker of Naojwan Bharatsabha lost his life in a hill stream while searching escape route for Subhaschandra

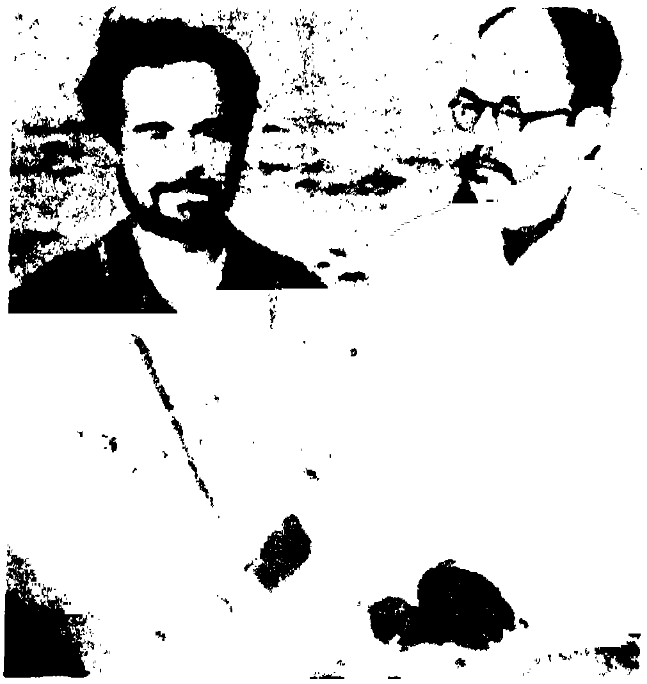


Achhar Sing Chira he was in company of Ram Kissan

Nicobar Islands and hoisted the Indian National Flag there. In April, 1944, at the head of the I.N.A. Subhas Chandra crossed into India across the North Eastern Frontier. His call to his army was "Chalo Delhi". This expedition of Subhas Chandra, however, ultimately ended in defeat.



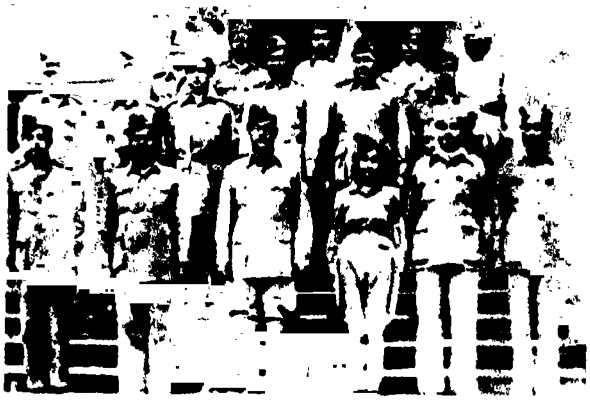
Majotta Subhaschandra disguised as an Italian



Subhaschandra and Abid Hussain in a Submarine



Handing over the Supreme Command of the I.N.A. to Subhaschandra by Rash Behari Bose



Azad Hind Government



Rani Jhansi brigade and the officer in Command Luxmi Swaminathan



Netaji



Surrender of the British Army at Singapore

[illegible]

[illegible]

Circular of Free Indian Government signed by Netaji. These were distributed from Japanese plane on 20th December 1942. One was in Bengali and the other in Urdu language written in Roman alphabet.

[illegible] HINDUSTAN KI AAR[illegible] HUKUMAT

QAYAM KI GAI

[illegible]

A[illegible] Hindustan [illegible] hukumat [illegible] rahnumai men purbi Asia [illegible] qayam ki gai hai.

A[illegible] ko [illegible] ne purbi Asia men [illegible] Azad Hindustanion ki [illegible] qayam kia hai. [illegible] Hindustan ki pahli azad hukumat hai.

H[illegible] Azad hukumat ka khaas kam yeh hai ki woh Hindustanion ko Anglo-Amerikiyon ki gulami ke panjon se [illegible]. Yeh Azad hukumat Hindustan men Anglo-Amerikiyon ki [illegible] ke bad Hindustanion ki ek hukumat qayam kare gi.

Hindustani [illegible] Azad Hind Fauj—Azad Hindustan ki Fauj [illegible] men hai aur woh [illegible] rahi hai. Azad Hindustanion ki woh taqatwar Fauj jo ki purbi Asia men hai [illegible] jald Delhi ki taraf [illegible] kare gi. Hindustan men Delhi [illegible] taqat ka qila hai. Ap log Azad Hind Fauj men shamil [illegible] ke liye tayar rahen. Apko Hindustan ke [illegible] men apna [illegible] ada karna hai.

Hindustan men Muqim dosto! [illegible] jald Anglo-Amerikiyon ko Hindustan se [illegible] bahar kia jae ga aur Hindustan [illegible] Azad Hindustan ki hukumat qayam kar [illegible] hukumat ko Hindustan, Hindustanion ke liye qayam [illegible] Azad Hind[illegible] ki hukumat ki ap log madad karen [illegible] hukumat [illegible] apni hukumat hai aur Anglo-Amerikiyon [illegible] nikal [illegible] men madad kijye. [illegible] dushman [illegible].

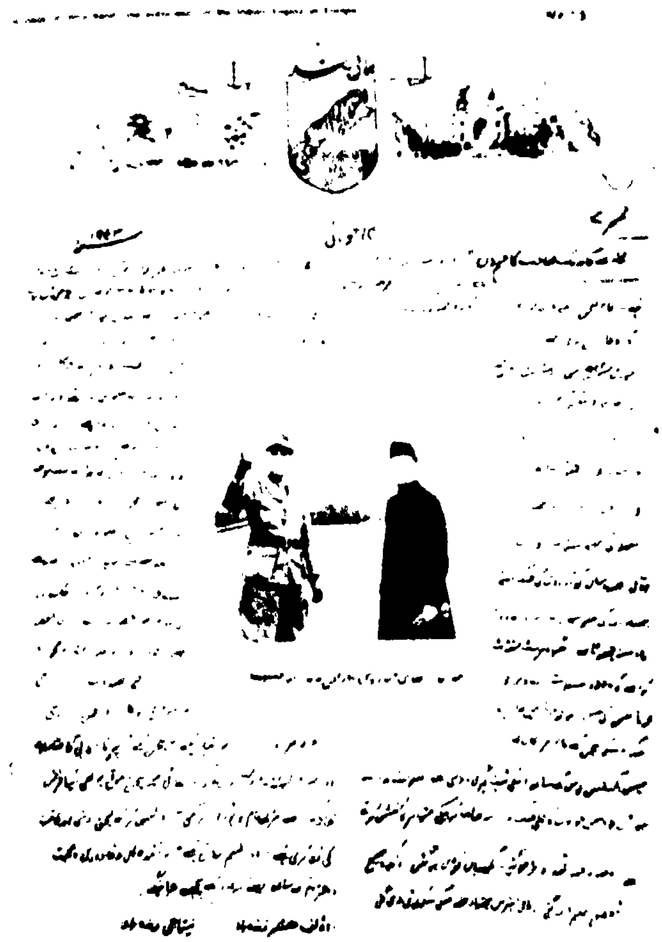
JAI HIND

[illegible]

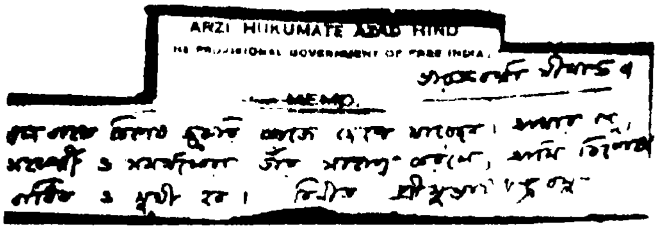
Some martyrs of the Indian Independence League:

Subhas Chandra sent quite a few daring Indian revolutionaries by Japanese submarine to India on behalf of the Indian Independence League first on 13th March, 1942, from Bangkock and then from Singapore.

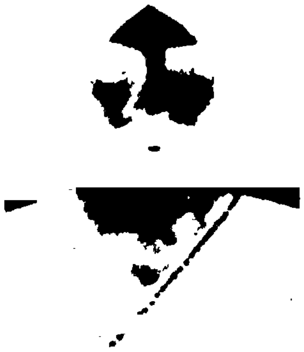
Of these, Mahammad Abdul Qadir of Travancore, Satyendra Chandra Bardhan, S.A. Anand and Fouja Singh were caught and hanged in the Madras Penitentiary on 10th September, 1943. Several more including Dr. Pabitra Sarkar, Amrit Singh, Haridas Mitra and Jyotish Chandra Bose were also sentenced to death, but ultimately by Gandhiji's intervention, they were released.



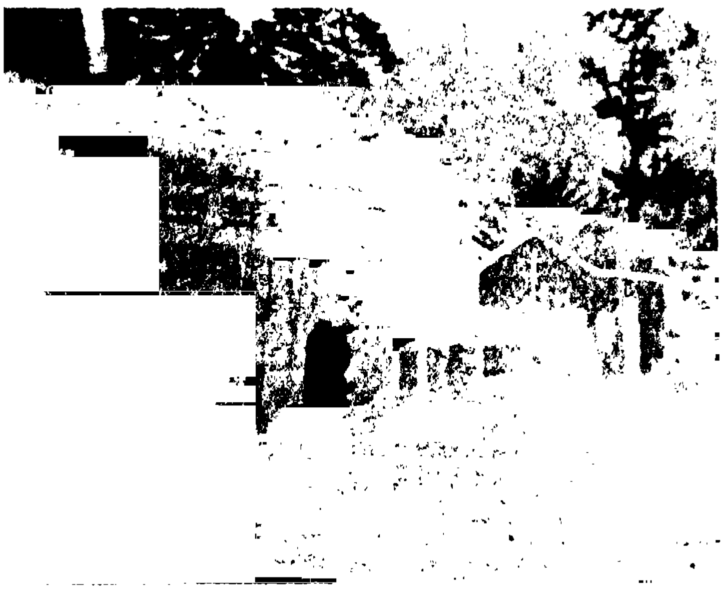
'Bhai Band' periodical published by I.N.A



Netaji's secret letter from Indian frontier



Sardar Mahinder Singh



I.N.A. on the way to Kohima

The martyrs of the revolt of the 4th Madras Coastal Defence Battalion (1943):

On 18th April, 1943, 12 Indian soldiers belonging to the 4th Madras Coastal Defence Battalion were arrested on the charge of conspiring to overthrow the British Government. On 5th July, and 5th August, 1943, the Military Court sentenced the following youngmen to death:—

(1) Mankumar Basu Thakur, (2) Nanda Kumar De, (3) Durgadas Roy, (4) Niranjan Barooah, (5) Chittaranjan Mukherjee, (6) Phani Bhusan Chakraborty, (7) Sunil Kumar Mukherjee (8) Kalipada Aych, & (9) Nirendramohan Mukherjee. They were all hanged on 27th September, 1943.



Man Kumar Basu Thakur



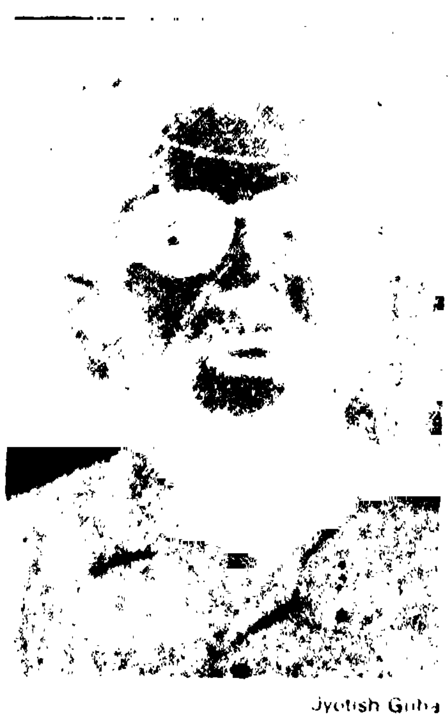
Abdul Qadir



Satyendra Chandra Bardhan



Sunil Mukherjee



Jyotish Guha

The wonderful sacrifice of an Indian girl in the Anti-Fascist War:

Nur Enayet Khan or Nurunnesa Begam was born in the family of Tipu Sultan. Her family lived in Paris. But they fled to England when France was occupied by Nazi Germany. In England Nurunnesa joined the Air Force. At her own request she was parashuted inside France. From there by secret radio she kept the British informed about German activities. For 18 months she carried on this dangerous work and was then caught by the Gestapo. They committed horrible torture on her, but could get not one word out of her lips. Then the Nazis sent her to the Notorious Camp of Dachau and there shot her dead.



Nur Enayet Khan or Nurunnesa Begam

Communist activities in this period:

Hitler's Germany suddenly attacked the Soviet Union on 22nd June, 1941. A great debate immediately started inside the underground illegal communist party on the character of the war. The

imprisoned leaders also participated in it. Towards the end of 1941, the C.P.I. came to the conclusion that with the attack of Nazi Germany against Soviet Union, the character of war has fundamentally changed—from imperialist war to anti-fascist war. So not opposition to war but support it on the basis of the C.P.I.'s independent line.

After adoption of this new line by the party demands were raised everywhere for its legalisation and in July, 1942, the C.P.I. declared legal.



Rally of Communist Party on the eve of its legalisation



Kaiyur Martyrs —artist Chittaprosad

The communists were first to take initiative to form an organisation calling the friends of the Soviet Union with men from all walks of life. The famous revolutionary Dr Bhupendranath Dutta was elected its President.

The main tactical line of the C.P.I. was the popularisation of the anti-Fascist characterof the war demanding the release of arrested national leaders for formation of a national Government—these were the key slogans of the C.P.I.

It was on 29th March, 1943, that in Cannanore jail in Kerala 4 young communist youth—Madathil Appur, Kunhambu Nayer, Chirukanandan and Abu Bakar were hanged on a trumped-up charged. In 1941, K.P.R Gopalan, famous communist leader of Malabar, led a massive peasant struggle. There was a bloody clash with police. In the case that followed, K.P.R. Gopalan was sentenced to death, but a world-wide amnesty campaign headed by Gandhiji, Jawaharlal Nehru saved his life. But these four youngmen were not so lucky. The Appeal Court turned down their appeal and upheld their death sentences.

It was on this occasion that famous Communist Composer Benoy Roy composed his wellknown song "Oh return to me" "Our Kaiyur Comrades"



After the Women s Conference at Bezwada



Communist student leader addressing public gathering at Bombay



Somen Chanda



Members of the friends of Soviet Association
Centre row Muzaffar Ahmed and with him President Bhupen Dutta

Murder of Somen Chanda:

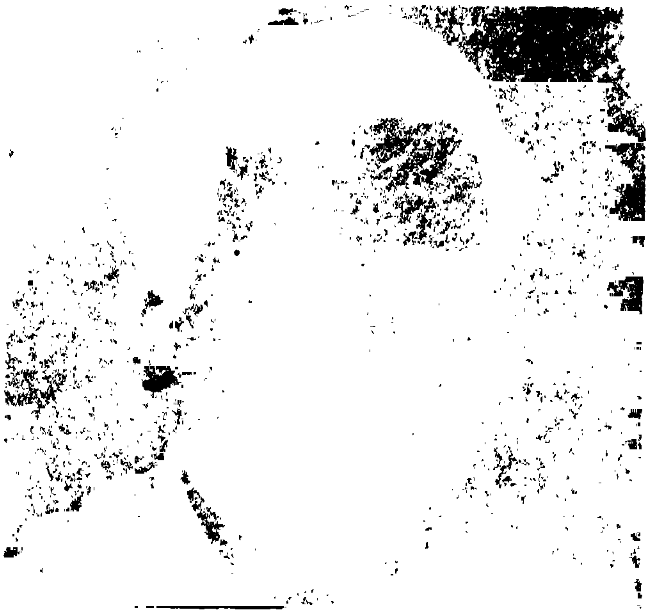
On 8th March, 1942, reactionary political thugs brutally murdered the young communist writer and trade unionist Somen Chanda in the streets of Dacca. As a protest against this murder, the writers of Calcutta held a meeting on 28th March and set up from there the anti Facist Association of Writers' and Artists. Among those, who joined this Association were Ramananda Chattopadhyay, Atul Chandra Gupta, Hiran Kumar Sanyal, Gopal Halder, Buddhadev Basu, Bishnu De.



No 46 Dharmatolla Street



Ramananda Chattopadhyay



Mohit Bandopadhya, Bengali translator of the song "International



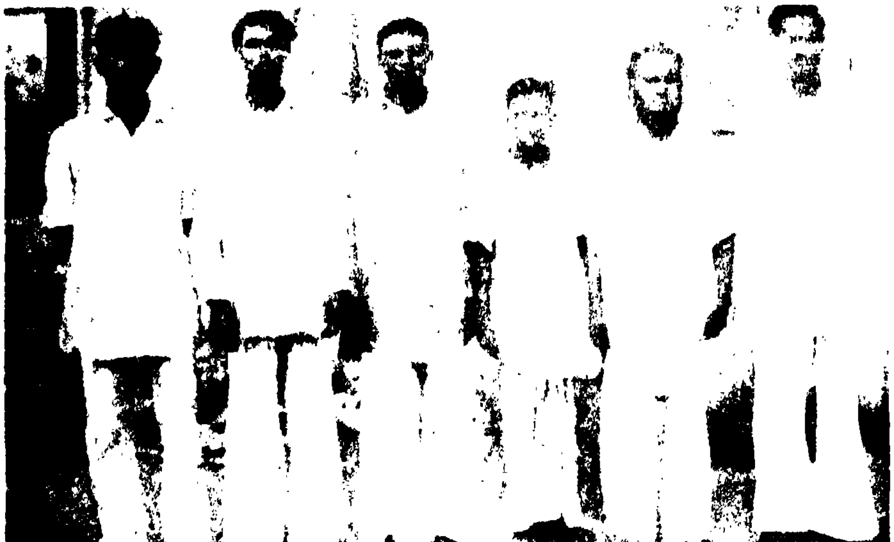
Newly elected Central Committee of the Communist Party of India in 1943



Four Communist leaders from left Muzaffar Ahmed, Bankim Mukherjee, P C. Joshi, Somnath Lahiri



Latika Das, the first woman member of the Communist Party of Bengal



Six worker party members under leadership of Jahirul Haque (first on right) the tram workers leader

The Great Bengal Famine of 1943:

In this great famine of 1943, 3.5 million people of Bengal died. The communist party with its limited strength tried desperately to stand by all the famine victims. Through these organisations, the party worked day and night to rush relief to the famine-stricken people:

The Tram Workers Union

The Students Federation and Janaraksha Samity

Mahila Atmaraksha Samity



Distribution of food and cloth by Janaraksha Samity



Famine-stricken women [illegible] assembly under the leadership of Mahila Atmaraksha Samity



Recovery of stock by student workers







Famine in the eye of artists



Bengal Provincial Mahila Atmaraksha Samity. Sarojini Naidu seen in the Centre

The Progressive Cultural Upsurge:

Such eminent Bengali writers like Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay, Manick Bandyopadhyay, Gopal Halder and Bishnu De wrote famous novels and stories

involving the anti-Facist war and famine, the famous composers and singers in this line are Jyotirindra Moitra, Benoy Roy, Hemango Biswas, Haripada Kusari etc. composed and sang revolutionary songs that shook the entire country; reputed artists like Jainal Abedin, Chittaprosad, Gopal Ghosh and Somnath Hore, immortalised through their sketches and drawings. Sunil Jana took some memorable photographs. All of them were connected with the Anti-Fascist Writers, and Artists Association.



[illegible] মুক্ত করো, মুক্ত করো,
অন্ধকারের এই দ্বার ।
[illegible]
[illegible]
ছিন্ন করো, ছিন্ন করো
[illegible] অন্ধকার ॥
— [illegible]



Harindra Chottopadhyay



Leaders and workers of Anti-Fascist Writers and Artists Association: Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay, Subhas Mukhopadhyay, Arun Mitra, Sambhu Mitra, Benoy Ray, Bijan Bhattacharya, Chinmohan Sehanavis



Practice of songs by the artists of 'Gananatya Sangha'



Three artists of 'Gananatya Sangha'
(left to right) Omar Saik, Maghi Oza, Balraj Sahni



Folk-literary Annavao Sathe



Hemanga Biswas Gurudas Paul



Blind folk artist Tagar Adhikary



Nibaran Pandit



Tramway labour Dasarath Lell an artist of Gananatya Sangha



Left to right Sheik Gumbar [illegible] Pradhan Ramesh Sil

Hiroshima-Nagasaki and the beginning of the Nuclear Age :

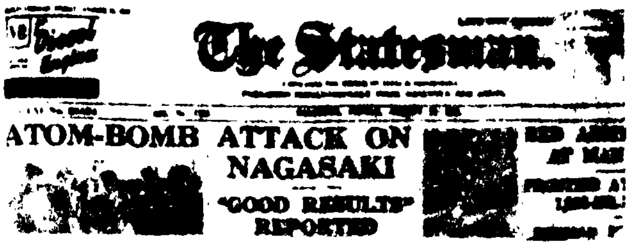
The powerful Kwantung Army of Japan was almost completely destroyed by the Soviet army and Japan was on the brink of surrender. It was just at this moment that at the express order of the U.S. President

Truman that the Atom Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki leading to horrible death and destruction. This was completely unnecessary for military victory. With this started the possibility of great advance and colossal destruction in the Atomic Age.

News of the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. (below)



Hiroshima



The Statesman.

ATOM-BOMB ATTACK ON NAGASAKI

"GOOD RESULTS" REPORTED

Nagasaki



Communist procession in Calcutta, celebrating the victory of Red Army

The Post War Upsurge in India:

As soon as the 2nd World War ended the great uprising of the entire Indian people started throughout the country i.e. workers, peasants, students, youths and soldiers.

Several photographs of huge post war working-class demonstration. (below)



Golden Rock office of the Madras Railway workers union ransacked by police



Firing at Golden Rock (artist Chittaprosad)





One of the innumerable post-war working class demonstration (Bombay)



Workers demonstration at Gardenreach, Calcutta



A post war labourers rally at Bombay



Three I.N.A. Officers P.K. Sehgal, Shah Nauaz Khan, Dhillon

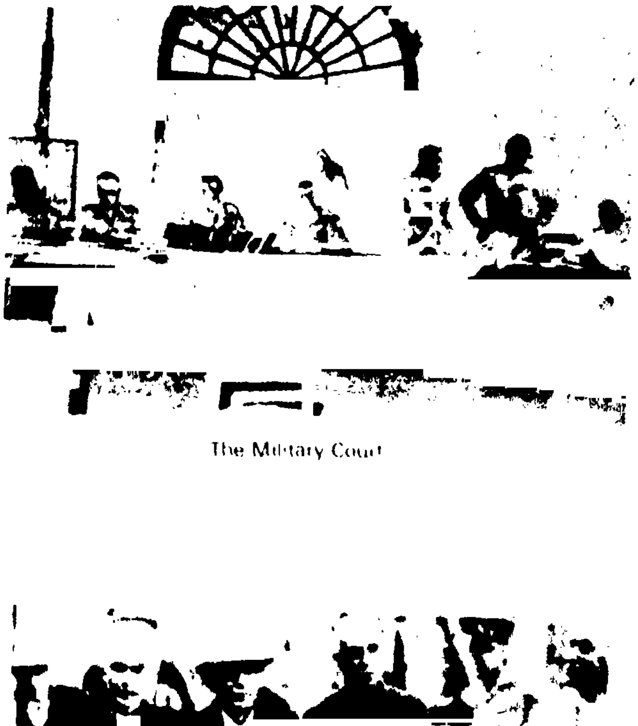
Trial of the I.N.A. officials in Military Court :

After the defeat of I.N.A. & Japan in 2nd World War, many soldiers and officers of the I.N.A. became prisoners in British Camps. The arrogant British imperialism started a case against the 3 I.N.A. officials—Shah Nawaz, Dhillon and Sehgal. Immediately the whole country had risen in protest.

Nationalists, Barristers like Tez Bahadur Sapru, Jawaharlal Nehru and others went to Military Court to defend the I.N.A. prisoners.



Trial of the I.N.A. Officials starts in Red Fort Military Court



The Military Court



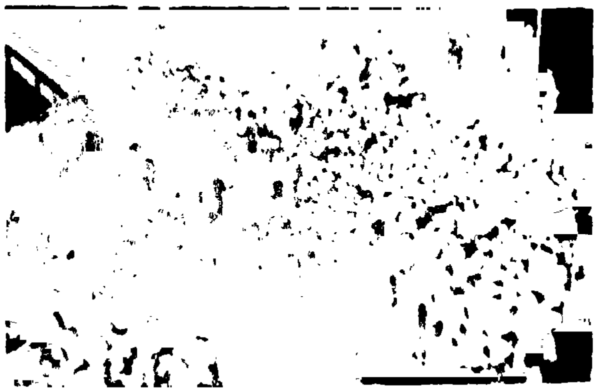
Three Barristers defending the I.N.A. Officials (left to right) Kailashnath Katju, Tez Bahadur Sapru and Jawaharlal Nehru

The police opened fire on a student demonstration demanding the release of I.N.A. prisoners. Many youths including Rameswar Banerjee, were killed. But the demonstration did not break up. Next day an unprecedented general strike and Hartal took place in Calcutta. People tied together the Congress, the Muslim League and the communist flags and put up barricades. Manik Bandyopadhyay, a famous novelist, wrote a novel "Chinha" on this event and the Poet Nirendranath Chakraborty wrote a poem on the next day.

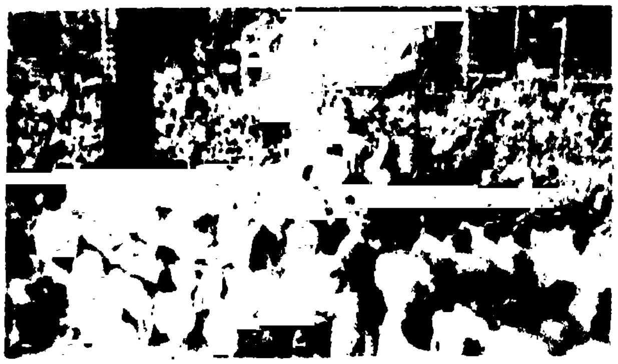
The veteran Congress woman leader Jyotirmoyee Ganguly sat with the students on the Dharamtala Street the whole night on 21st November Next morning she was killed in a car accident.



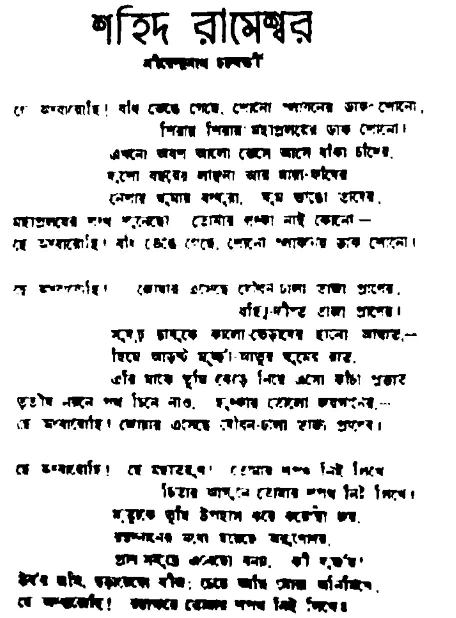
Rameswar Banerjee killed by police firing on student demonstrator on Dharmatolla Street on 21st November



Peoples rally against the trial of I N A (Bombay)

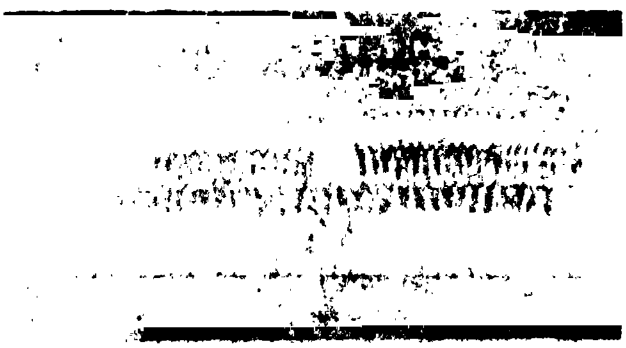


Huge rally and procession condemning the trial of I.N A. officials (Calcutta)



শহিদ রামেশ্বর

A poem by Nirendranath Chakraborty on martyr Rameshwar published next day



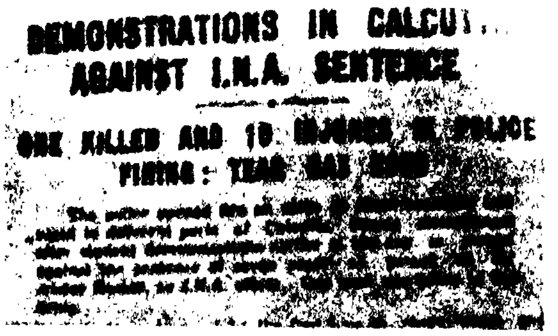
Parade by I N A at Delhi



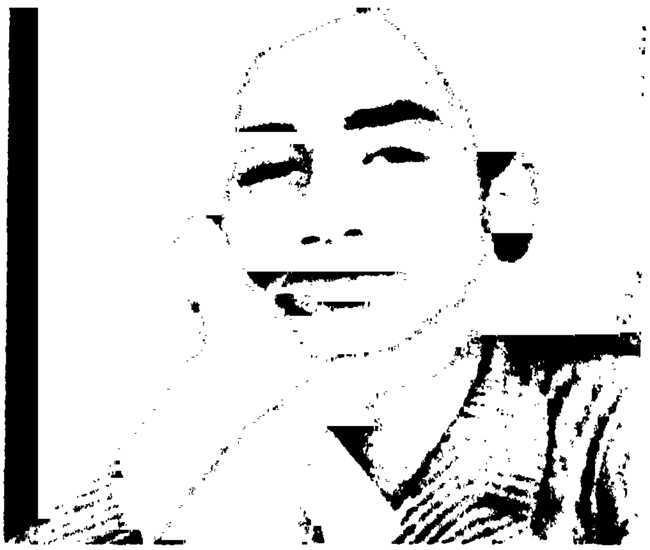
Jyotirmoyee Ganguly

Rashid Ali Day (10th to 12th February, 1946):

On the 1st December, 1945, Commander-in-Chief, Claude Auchinlek in a confidential note said"in the next spring a mass revolution might break out that would far surpass the August Revolt of 1942." He further said that the main storm centre would be Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal. On 10th February, 1946, in the DelhiFort trial of Captain Rashid Ali of I N A started. Immediately the Calcutta students started a general strike and marched to the prohibited zone of Dalhousie Square. The police made a brutal lathi-charge On 11th and 12th February, Calcutta witnessed a veritable united popular uprising of Hindus and Muslims. There was total general strike and tram, bus, rickshaw and railways were all halted. The people set fire to the military cars Many militant students and toiling youths of the slum fought against the military in the barricade. The communist party and the trade unions gave a call for general strike. On 12th February, a million-strong united demonstration led by the Muslim leader Suhrawardi and the Gandhi-ite Shri Satish Dasgupta marched like victors. The Police Commissioner in a secret report wrote that the most dangerous role in this struggle had been played by the communist party. Their aim is an armed revolution


DEMONSTRATIONS IN CALCU...
AGAINST I.N.A. SENTENCE
ONE KILLED AND 10 ... POLICE
FIRING : TEAR GAS ...

Calcutta revolts on Rashid Ali Day



Poet Sukanta Bhattacharya

Sukanta's fiery lines gave voice to the rebellious mood of the people.

"Revolt!
Revolt everywhere
I write its
daily record!"

The revolt of the R.I.N. (18th to 22nd February, 1946):

In Bombay and Karachi the Indian Naval Ratings started a revolt against the British authorities on 18th February, 1946 In the warships 'Hindustan, Talwar, Chamak' as also in Castle Barrack, everywhere the ratings tore down the Union Jack and hoisted in its place as symbols of unity for struggle in the Independence the three flags of Congress, Muslim League and the Communist Party. The common people



Agitators rally in Bombay against the conviction of Rashid Ali



Scene on Bombay thoroughfare during the naval revolt

came forward to support the revolt. The C.P.I., Forward Bloc, R.S.P., R.C.P.I. and other leftist parties as also Aruna Asaf Ali, heroine of the August Revolution lent full support to the revolt. The working class, toiling people and the students of India also came out intheir millions in support of this struggle. In Bombay the Communist Party and the All India Trade Union



Scene on Bombay thoroughfare during the naval revolt



Martyr Kamal Donde



Martyr Sripad Maruti Jadav



Bala Dutt a distinguished leader of Naval revolt



Rebellious naval personnels on Bombay road



Massacre at Bombay under cover of Marshall Law



This jeep was set on fire at Chittaranjan Avenue on 21st February 1946 when 500 sailors at Calcutta called a strike in support of the Naval Revolt

Congress gave a call for general strike in support of the revolt. In greater Bombay, 3.5 million workers responded to the call of general strike. On the other hand, the Government declared Marshall Law and handed over Bombay to the British military. The British used tanks and armoured cars to break the general strike. In two days in machine-gun bullets, over 500 people were killed. Among the martyrs were, the communist women leader Kamal Donde. After carrying on unequal heroic struggle for several days, the ratings surrendered, in their words, "Not to the British authorities but to the Indian people" responding to the call of the Congress and League leaders

On 23rd February, 1946, the Central Strike Committee of the R.I.N. Ratingsissued their final appeal to the Indian people.

The R.I.N. revolt started on 18th February, 1946, and the very next day (i.e. 19th) the British Prime Minister Attlee announced publicly that a Cabinet Mission was soon starting for India to negotiate complete transfer of power.

Not only in the Navy, but also in the Army and Air Force strikes and demonstrations took place in Jabalpur, Puna and elsewhere. In Fort William, Calcutta, Major Jaipal Singh was arrested and detained on a charge of conspiring for a revolt inside the Army, He escaped from that Detention and went underground. Jaipal Singh was a communist (later on a member of the Central Committee of the C P.I-M). Many men were dismissed from Army, Navy and Air Force on the mere suspicion of being connected with the freedom movement.



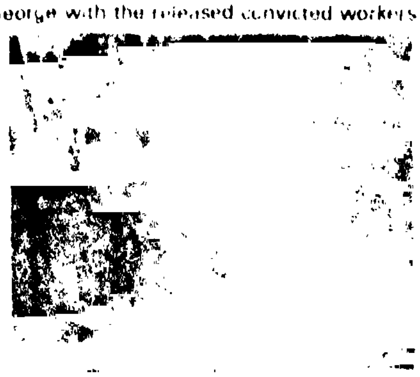
The mass uprising in Vayalar Punnapra (artist Chittaprosad)

The mass uprising in Vayalar—Punnapra in Travancore (1946):

In the middle of 1946, a famine loomed large in the state of Travancore. The communists organised a hunger march against this in Vilime. Close by, in the town of Aleppey, communist trade union leader T.V. Thomas was conducting a workers demonstration. And against all these movements, a terrible repression had been unleashed by the autocratic Dewan C P Ramaswamy Iyer. At this time, the most popular and established mass leaders in Kerala were the founders



The Communist leader of Vayalar Punnapra agitation K.C. George with the released convicted workers



A scene at Vayalar Punnapra



Jawaharlal and Pattavi Sitaramiya amidst the leaders of All India State peoples conference in 1946

of the communist party there—B. Krishna Pillai, E.M.S. Namboodripad and K.C. George.

The communist party of Kerala decided that general strike throughout Travancore shall have to be organised combining the issues of the workers,unrest in Aleppey, the impending famine and the autocratic behaviour of the Dewan. In the nearby coastal villages of Punnapra and Vayalar, the communists had strong bases. In October, 1946, K.C. George and T.V. Thomas arrived there to give leadership to the movement.

On 22nd October, the call for a general strike was given. At once C P Ramaswamy declared illegal the communist party and the Coir Workers Union. The police also started a brutal regime of terror.

On 24th October, apart from a total general strike the people started attacking the police camps and the houses of an oppressive landlord. The police opened fire, killed 10 workers, but the police officer was also killed. Ultimately, the landlord's house was captured and the police fled from their camp.

On 26th October, the Army of the Dewan twice tried to enter Vayalar but they were twice repulsed by the militant people. Ultimately, at dawn on 27th October, taking advantage of a fog 500 soldiers came in a motor launch and entered Vayalar. Then what happened was a Mini-Jalianwallabagh. The soldiers opened machine gun, fire, killing more than 500 workers and peasant activists. In this way, Sir C.P. Ramaswamy crushed, Punnapra-Vayalar uprising in blood. However, this struggle foiled the conspiracy of trying to delink Travancore from India and by 1956, Travancore, Cochin and Malabar together had become the Kerala state of today.



Irabat Singh—Manipur



Godavori Parulekar leader of Worli uprising

The Worli Adibasi movement in Maharashtra:

Only 50 miles away from Bombay in the Thana region lived and worked 2,50,000 adibasi landless labourers. At first their conditions were not better than slaves. A couple—Shyam Rao and Godavori Parulekar went to work among them on behalf of the servants of India Society with a humanitarian outlook. Their own experience converted both of them into communists. Soon both of them became the unchallenged leaders of the adibasis. Godavori became so popular that the adibasis referred to her as "Tai" ('Didi').

When Godavori went first to this area all forms of medieval oppression used to take place there—physical torture, unpaid hard labour, rape and murder. After a few months in January, 1945, when the Provincial Kisan Conference was held, 250 Worlis attended it. On 23rd May of the same year, 5,000 adibasis took a public pledge that they will no longer work under the Zaminders or Thikadars. They demanded an end to their semi-slave condition.

On 10th October, 1945, numerous adibasis asserted that they would no longer tolerate a condition of semi-slavery.

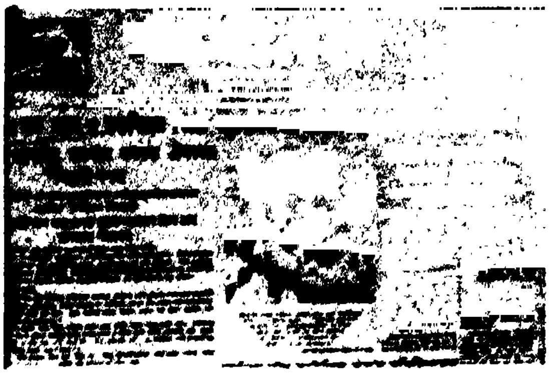
On 10th of October, 1945, in the village of Dalwara a huge police party suddenly opened fire on the people. Five adibasis became martyrs in that firing. Both the Parulekar's husband and wife were externed by the British. The Congress Home Minister of Bombay Morarjee Desai declared: "No compromise with the Worlis". The Union Home Minister Sardar Patel added "Telengana, Worlis and Kakdwip movements shall be crushed to dust" The Parulekars went underground in 1948 and conducted the struggle secretly. There were many ups and downs in the struggle, but the Worlis determinedly fought on.



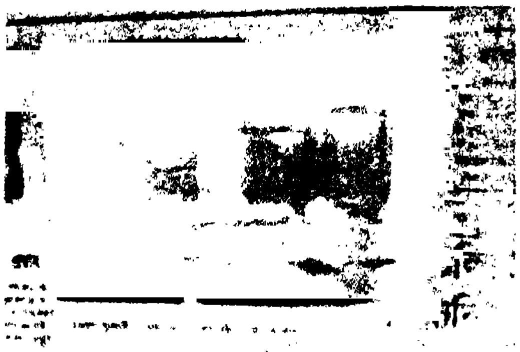
Rajani Palme Dutt with leaders and workers of Communist Party of Bengal

India tour by eminent Communist leader Rajani Palme Dutt

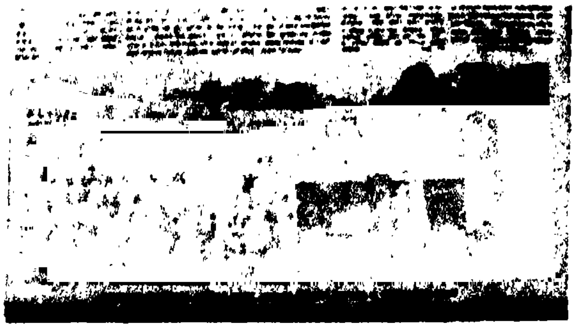
The eminent leader of the World Communist Movement, Rajani Palme Dutt came to India in 1946 to understand on the spot, the complex realities of Indian politics. In the photo, he can be seen with prominent Indian Comrades.



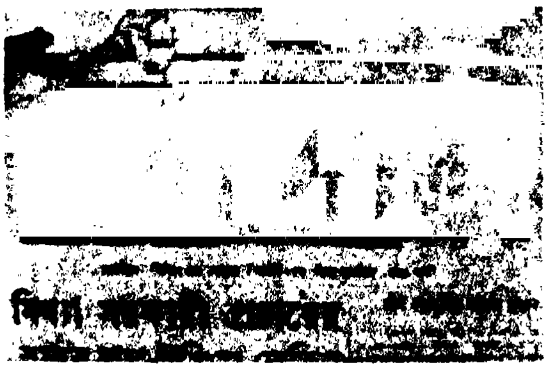
Report on general strike of 29th July 1946



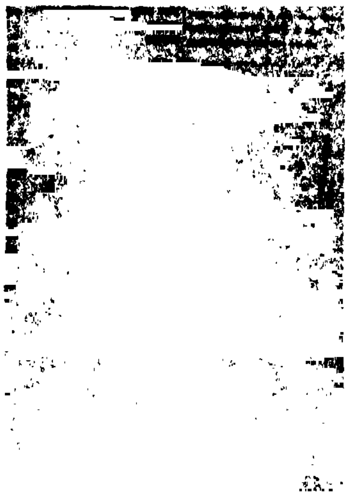
In Prime Minister's chamber at 11-30 A.M. on 29th July



The biggest general strike and public rally at Calcutta on 29th July, 1946.



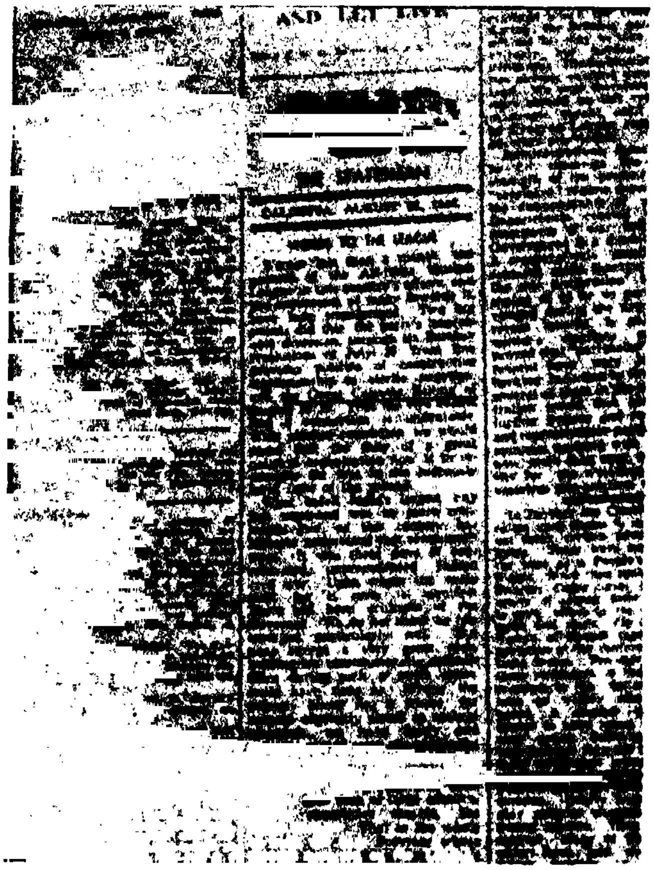
Government's claim proved false



Picketing at Calcutta station of All India Radio

29th July in Calcutta—unprecedented general strike:

On 29th July, 1946, a solidarity general strike had been called in support of the struggle of the Posts and Telegraphs Workers of India in Calcutta and there was a total general strike. In all factories, schools, colleges, offices, people joined the strike spontaneously and enthusiastically in Calcutta. Women and girl picketers paralysed the All India Radio. When the popular mobilisation crossed all the limits, then gradually the police and military were withdrawn. In 1946, 1629 stirkes took place in Bengal and a total of 19,41,748 workers participated in the strike. The communists and the leftists led the general strike. In most of these bloody struggles, the communists supplied the leadership, whereas the Congress leaders were then dreaming of ministry-making.



Great Calcutta killing--Statesman

Imperialism hits back: Communal riot:

Only 18 days after the historic general strike of 29th July, the British imperialists counter-attacked through the weapon of massive communal riot. In Calcutta, riot started on 16th August as an aftermath of the "Direct Action Day" called by the Muslim League. In this riot nearly 5,000 Hindus and Muslims were killed and 10,000 injured. The Statesman in an editorial called this "The Great Calcutta Killing". Then started a chain of retaliation in Noakhali, Bihar, Gar Mukteswar (Uttar Pradesh) and final holocaust in Punjab.

The Indian People Against the Communal Riot:

In those tragic days when the whole atmosphere was vitiated by the communal poison, a handful of men tried desperately to stem the tide. The foremost among them was truly Mahatma Gandhi who rushed to Calcutta, Bihar, Noakhali and Punjab and did everything that was quite possible.



Riot devastated Calcutta



The famous photo of Gandhiji in Noakhali standing on the bamboo bridge



Writers and Artists demonstration in Calcutta against the communal riot

These were martyrs in their attempts to halt the communal riot—(a) Lalmohan Sen, hero of the Chittagong armoury raid and the battle of Jalalabad. He joined the communist party after his release from Andamans.

(b) Sushil Dasgupta
(c) Smritish Bandyopadhyay
(d) Sachin Mitra and
(e) Nani (Bhudev) Sen

The last four were distinguished Congress workers

The students, defying murderous assaults by the communalists brought out united demonstration of Hindus and Muslims towards the close of 1946.

Just before the *Pujas* of 1946, against the possible danger of recurrence of communal riot in Calcutta a combined demonstration by the Writers, Artists against communal riot was organised jointly by the Progressive Writers' Association (P.W.A.), the Congress Sahitya Sangha, Indian Peoples Theatres Association and the Artists Association. In the photo can be seen Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay, Subhas Mukhopadhyay, Sabitabrata Dutta, Sudhi Pradhan and others. Those who participated in this demonstration included Manik Bandyopadhyay, Gopal Halder, Jyotirmoy Roy, Suchitra Mitra, Debabrata Biswas, Dijen Chowdhury, etc.



Gandhiji in a village of Noakhali



Surwardy with Gandhiji in Beliaghata



Sushil Dasgupta



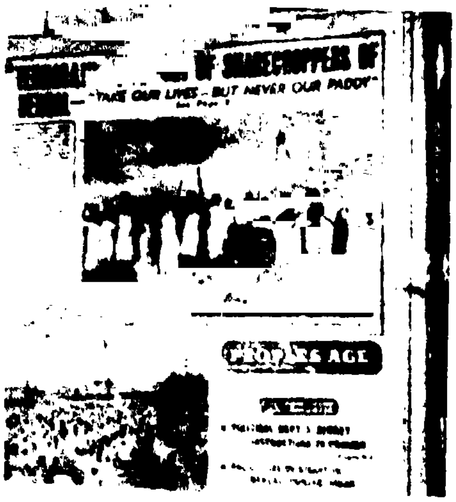
Lalmohan Sen



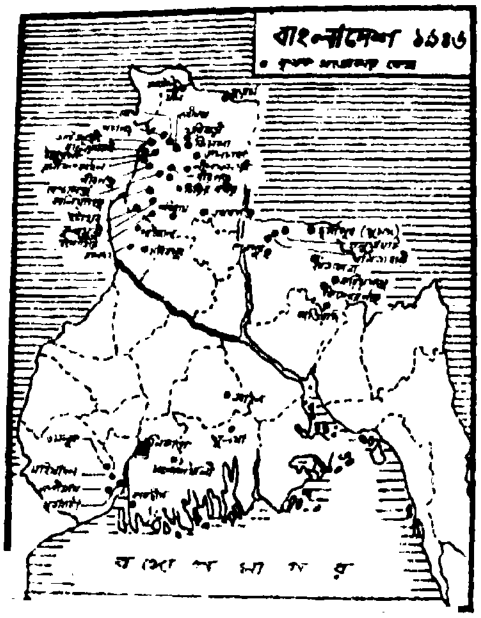
Nani (Bhudev) Sen



Smritish Bandyopadhyay   Sachin Mitra



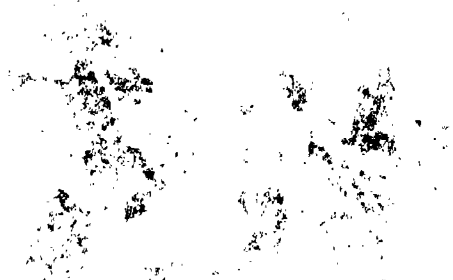




Area under Tebhaga Struggle



News and pictures of Tebhaga



Struggling women picketers of Tebhaga

The Tebhaga Struggle:

In September, 1946, a vicious communal riot had already taken place in India. In the midst of such a communal atmosphere, the Bengal Provincial Krishak Sabha gave the call for Tebhaga Struggle. This demand mainly related to the sharecroppers who demanded that from now on they be given 2/3rd share of the crop that they produce in the *jothdars*. fields and not half they were getting up to then. On the basis of this demand, over 6 million peasants of Bengal filled the rural areas with the thunderous cry of 'Inquilab Zindabad,' "Take your crop to your own granary".

The movement started in the village of Rampur under the Atwari P.S. in the district of Dinajpur. Dinajpur was the area of a heroic but defeated struggle of the peasants in 1940-1942. But the situation was changed now and Rupnarayan Roy, son of a Rajbanshi peasant was elected M.L.A. in 1946 on the ticket of the communist party. In that election only 2 other communists won—Ratanlal Brahman from the Darjeeling Tea Labour Constituency and Jyoti Basu. This time in that same Dinajpur, the peasants tried to harvest their crop into their own granary. The police repression started, but the peasants resisted. After this, leaders like Gurudas Talukdar, Haji Danesh, Bibhuti Guha, Sunil Sen, Kali Sarkar, Basanta Chattopadhyay, Asit Roy, Sudhir Samajpati and others conducted the entire movement. Some openly, others from underground. Very soon, the movement spread to 22 police station out of a total of 30 in the district of Dinajpur. Thousands of militant peasants, youths, enrolled themselves in the Volunteer Bahini built up by the Kisan Sabha. Later on Abani Lahiri became the Commander-in-Chief of the entire Volunteer Bahini. One of the strongholds of the movements was Thakurgaon. From the peasants of that area came out a very militant leader—Comporam Singh (after partition Comporam was arrested in the East Pakistan and there died a martyr in 1950 in Rajsahi jail due to brutal police firing. In a new peasant base called Rani Sankail when the police came to arrest the peasant leaders, a Rajbanshi young girl Vandani surrounded the police with the help of a large number of youth militants. Vandani snatched away the rifle from the hand of the Inspector of Police.



Jashodarani Sarkar



Bhabani Burman



Narayan Murmu

Three martyrs of Khanpur



Memorial of Khanpur martyrs

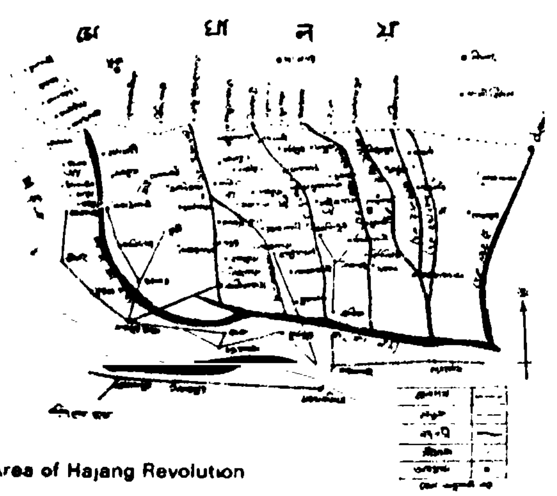
On the 4th January, 1947, the police opened fire on a peasants rally at Chirir Bandar and two youths were killed. As a result of this shooting one Santal youth, called Shibram and Muslim landless labour called Samiruddin were killed. Then a unprecedented reign of terror was unleashed in the sub-division of Balurghat. On 25th February, 1947, the police tried to arrest the local leaders. The peasants resisted with axes, bows and arrows. The police went on firing at random and this led to the death of the local peasant leader Chiar Saikh. A woman named Jashoda gave a call not to surrender to the British. On 25th February, 1947, thousands of youth marched to the town of Takurgaon. Two women leaders spoke there, Rani Mitra and Bina Guha. The Government declared the rally to be illegal. Accepting the Government's order, the rally was later on declared illegal and when the



Leaders of Tebhaga struggle sitting (left to right) Rajen Chatterjee Ajit Roy, Mahi Bagchi, Bhupesh Banerjee (Gulu), Subodh Sen, Jiban Dey.
Standing first row (left to right) Sachin Ghose (Rangpur), Abani Lahiri Sushil Sen, Gurudas Talukdar, Saroj Mukherjee
2nd row (left to right) two Krishak leaders, Kali Sarkar Rupnaryan Roy, Nanidas Mohanta, Naresh Chakraburty

peasants were slowly dispersing, then suddenly the police opened firing killing a muslim peasant called Hiraman Mahammad. Two Santal youths were also mortally injured and taken to the hospital.

Tebhaga struggle spread first to Dinajpur and then to Jalpaiguri and then to Mymensing district. In Rangpur, the Sharecroppers were far more numerous and far more conscious of their rights. Among the underground leaders were Mahi Bagchi, Monikrishna Sen, Abani Bagchi etc. In January, 1947, a Muslim jotedar opened fire on the sharecroppers. The local millitant peasant leader Bacha Mohammad was seriously injured. In Devigunj, the movement was led by old Rajbanshi leaders popularly known as Burima. In Boda and Jalpaiguri, the leader Shri Madhab Dutta and three peasant activist Bachha Munsi, Indramohan and Radhamohan Burman. The leaders of Tebhaga struggle in the Pachugur area was Charu Majumder to become famous later on as the leader of the Naxalite movement. In another leader of the Devigunj area was Samar Ganguli, who was later on organising the tribal people of Dooars.



Area of Hajang Revolution

On 1st March, 1947, the peasants of Jalpaiguri tried to cease the Stock rice from the granary of Jotedar. The police opened fire killing oldman Ladhra and five other peasants.

On 4th April in Makali, in another clash, 9 peasants were killed. In both the cases, the peasants had desperately fought with bows and arrows against the rifles of policemen.

In the district of Midnapur in Mohisadal, Sutahata and Nandigram, the Tebhaga struggle spread. Besides, such eminent leaders like Bhupal Panda and Ananta Maji, the women activists Bimala Mondal also marched as the leader of the struggle.

The Hajong revolt at Mymensing:

In the district of Mymensing in the thirties, the Hajong tribals of the Susang Pargana started the Tanka movement. On 5th December, 1930, 5,000 Hajongs demanded a reduction in the Tanka rent and insisted that from now on they pay rent in cash and not in kind, which was the rule of Tanka. Apart from the Hajongs, many Muslims were also Tanka peasants. From the very outset, the unchallenged leader of this movement was Moni Singh, now the Chairman of the Bangladesh Communist Party. With him, was a popular rising from the ranks of the Hajongs—Lalit Sarkar. The whole movement was restricted to a limited stretch—50 mile long and 10 mile wide area south of the Garo Hills. Moreover, this movement was not against the Jotedars, but against the Zaminders of Susang.



Moni Singh with Hajong workers



Lalit Sarkar Pramatha Gupta



Martyr Ananta



Procession of Hajong women in hill area



Undaunted resistance in Hasnabad

On 21st January, 1947, the Hajongs attacked a *Muhuri* of the Zaminders when he was going along with a cart full of paddy extorted from the Garos. They seized the cart and somehow the Muhuri escaped his life. 10 days later near the river Someswari the Hajong peasant menfolk of the village of Bahartali had gone to another village to organise a meeting. Taking advantage of this, the police seized Bahartali, raped two women and dragged away another girl called Kumudini. In the meanwhile, some peasants were returning to Bahartali. Hearing the pitious cry of Kumudini the peasant women leader Rashmoni like tigress attacked the police with an axe. In the clash that followed, Rashmoni and another Hajong youth called Surendra were killed by police bullets, but three policemen were also killed. Kumudini escaped. The rest of the police fled and the Hajongs took away the rifles of the police.

After this, the Eastern Frontier Rifles were sent to the Hajong area where they unleashed a reign of terror. They set fire to the houses and looted everything. When police was unable to arrest a single leader or activists, seized paddy.

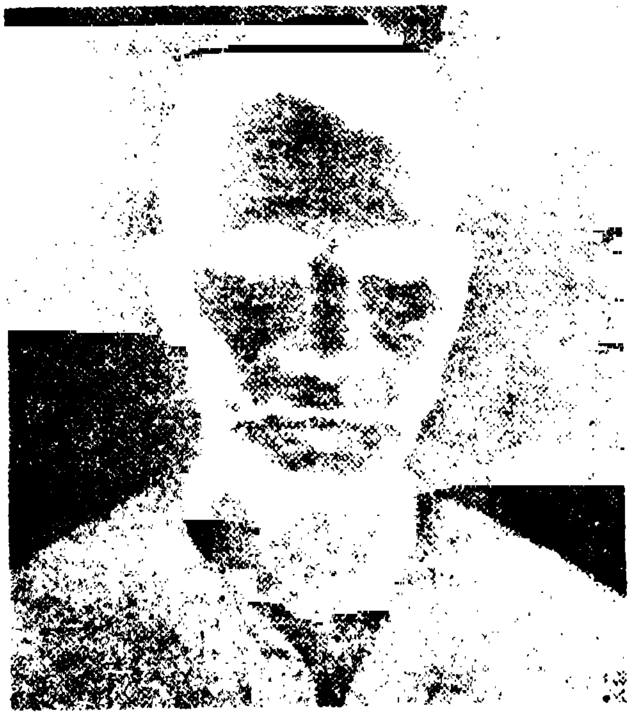
After partition, repression was mounted again on the Hajongs. 60 peasant militant lost their lives. But many Hajongs families led by Lalit Sarkar escaped into India, into the new state of Meghalaya.

The results of the peasant uprising in Bengal in 1946-47:

Tebhaga was the demand of the share-croppers. They were at the forefront of the struggle and they were the decisive majority among the peasants. An agricultural labourer had nothing tangible to gain from this struggle, yet, they joined this movement in a very large number and most of the volunteers came from their ranks.

Ruthless repression crushed the movement for the time being. But the status-quo had been shattered. In many areas, Tebhaga had been accepted. After Independence the Congress had to pass in 1950 the West Bengal Share-Croppers Act. In 1950, the East Pakistan Government had also to accept the demands of the Tanka peasants.

Between 1946-1947, apart from the direct consequences of the peasant movement, there was an indirect gain. Despite the great Calcutta killing and the carnage of Noakhali, communal poison could not spread in the whole of rural Bengal because of the glorious peasant struggle where Hindus and Muslims stood united.



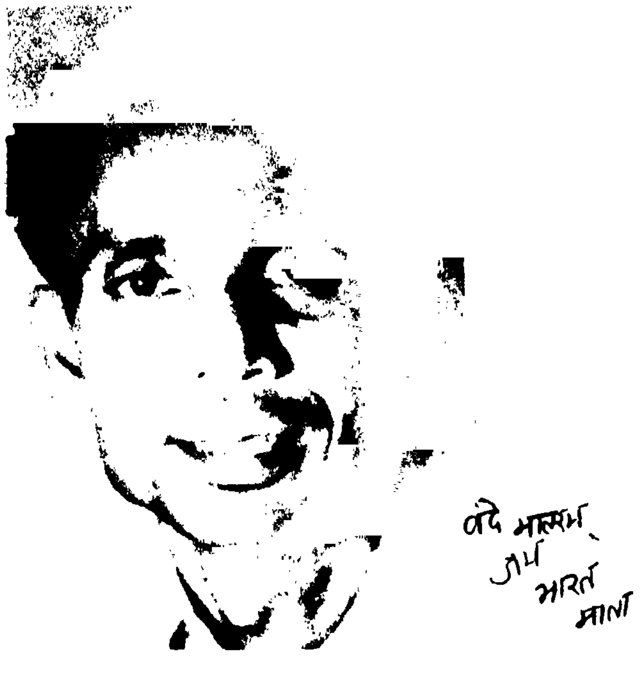
Paresh Das

Its best example is the resistance of Hasnabad. After the communal flame had engulfed, Noakhali rioteers were rushed to the border districts of Comilla. In between lay the village of Hasnabad and several other villages. From 1933 onwards, this area was the strong-hold of unity of Muslims and Hindus and united struggle, led at first by the Congress and then by the communist led Kisan Sabha. The two outstanding leaders of this area were Krishna Sundar Bhowmick and Mokhleswar Rahman. In their early youths they were national revolutionaries. Later on, they became communists.

When in October, 1946, the rioteers tried to enter Comilla from Noakhali then at the call of the communist party and Kisan Sabha 10,000 united Hindu and Muslim volunteers armed with lathis and flying red flag barred the path of the rioteers and prevented the flames of riot from engulfing all East Pakistan



Tramway workers day



Somnath Lahiri

Tramway and other workers against communal riot:

In 1946-1947, when the communal tide had engulfed Calcutta, then certain islands of hope also existed. These were the messages of the tramway workers at Ballygunge, Park Circus, Belgachia and Rajabazar. During the holocust of 1946, Rezzak and Chatur Ali tramway workers and communist leaders in the Rajabazar area saved the lives of many Hindu workers. On the other side Dover Lane tram mess of Ballygunge tram workers and communist leader Bijoy Chakraborty and Rajen Pahari led the tram workers to save the lives of many Muslims. Similarly were the roles of the tram workers of Park Circus and Belgachia led by such eminent leaders like Zahirul Haque, Kshetonarayan Mishir and Kali Banerjee.

In the midst of such a communal atmosphere, from 21st January, 1947, 8,000 Hindu and Muslims tram workers led by the communist controlled Tramway Workers Union went on an 85-day long general strike. This unity was a shining hope to the entire working class of Bengal.

Vietnam Day and the students of Bengal:

The students of Bengal never forgot their international duties. On 21st January, 1947, the Bengal Provincial Students Federation gave a call for solidarity demonstration with embattled Vietnam. The



Vietnam Day

Martyrs of Vietnam Day

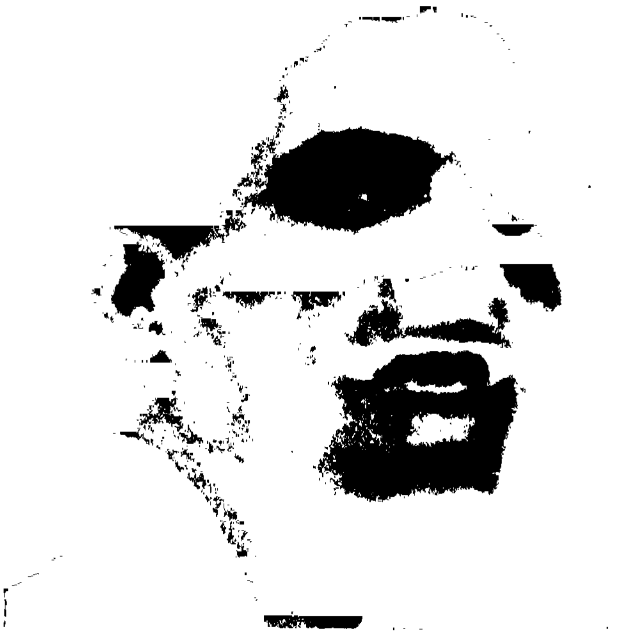


Amalendu Ghose

The upsurge of the State's peoples at the end of the War:

When the feudal princes realised that transfer of power was near at hand, they unleashed repression aginst the state's peoples movement. In the State of

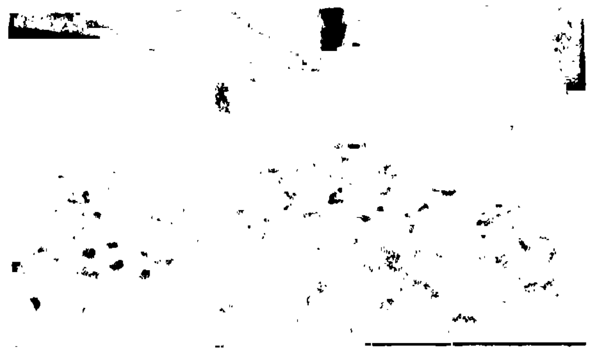
police opened fire five times over the demonstrators and 2 students were killed—Dhirarenjan and Sukhendu Bikash Many more were injured The B.P.T.U.C gave a call for a general strike on the next day and Calcutta witnessed again barricade fighting. Calcutta's fight spread to other places of Bengal notably to Maymensing. There a school student calleg Amalendu was killed, another girl student called Anita was injured by bullet. This was followed by general strike in Maymensing.



Dhiraranjan Sen



Sagormal Gope



Sheikh Abdullah—Kashmere



Irabat Singh --Manipur

Jaisalmir in Rajasthan on 3rd April, 1946, the authorities burnt to death inside jail the activists Sagormal Gope. In Kashmir the outstanding leader of the National Conference Sheikh Abdullah was arrested by the orders of the Maharaja. When Jawaharlal Nehru tried to enter Kashmir he was arrested. During arrest in a scuffle he was injured by a bayonet. The princes dreampt of "Independence" for themselves. This was a conspiracy to balkanise India, under the instigation of the British.

The beginning of the armed uprising in Telengana :

The oppression of princely autocracy reached its peak in Hyderabad. There in the Jalgaon taluk of Nalgonda district of Telengana an oppressive *Deshmukh* called Vinnur Ramchandra Reddi tried to annex a small plot of land of Ilamma--a poor washer woman. She was an active communist and she resisted the landlord together with other activists. The paddy was taken to her house.

The next day mass arrests took place instigated by the Deshmukh. Six leaders were arrested and terribly tortured. On 4th July, 1946, a massive clash took place between the armed police and the gangsters paid by the landlords and the young communist volunteers. A communist youth leader Doddi Kumaraia was killed by the gangsters bullets. He was the first martyr in the Telengana struggle. But the volunteers did not retreat but counter-attacked and drove the armed gangsters. But the martyrdom of Doddi Kumaraia spread the flame of resistance and struggle not only throughout Nalgonda district, but in all Telengana. This struggle spread throughout Telengana and continued unabated from the middle of 1946 to October, 1951. It was initially directed against the autocratic Nizamshahi, the religious bigoted Razakar and in the last phase against the Indian army.

Some say that the total number of Telengana martyrs were 4,000 and other say 6,000. 10,000 communists and sympathisers were kept imprisoned in jails and detention camps. In the police and military camps, more than 50,000 people were tortured. Lakhs of men in thousands of villages had their property devastated and thousands of women raped. The main participants in this struggle were the toiling peasants and agricultural labourers.

The Telengana struggle was the biggest armed struggle conducted by the Indian communists. In the whole colonial period this struggle took its place next only to the Santal uprising of 1855, and the great uprising of 1857-1858.

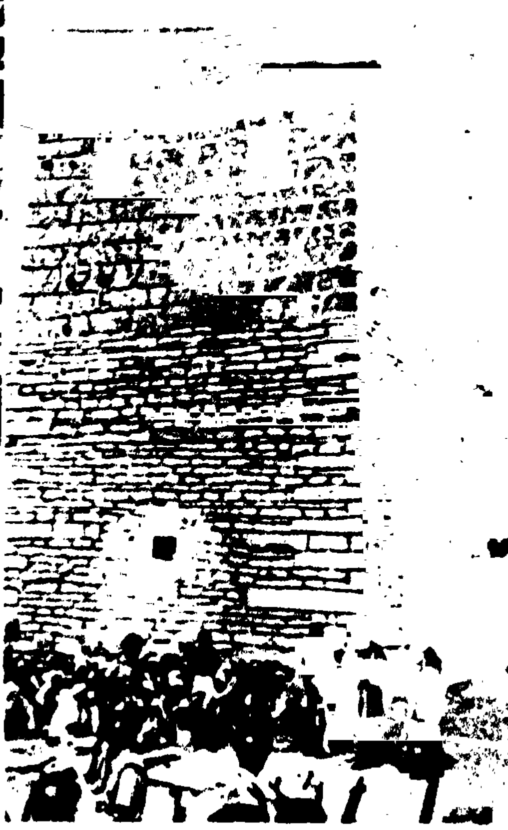


A revolutionary sentinel of Telengana



The peoples army of Telengana





Military and police operation in Telengana



Armed resistance in Telengana





Declaration by Jawaharlal Nehru

Transfer of Power (15th August, 1947):

"Many years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and the time has come today to redeem that sacred pledge. When the whole world is asleep India wakes to the light of Freedom".

——Jawaharlal's declaration in the Constituent Assembly.



Accepting partition of India



Transfer of power



National Flag on Red Fort



Calcutta joyously celebrate . The transfer of power



Bombay celebrates . the transfer of power

The last message of Rabindranath Tagore:

"The wheels of fate will someday compel the English to give up their Indian empire. But what kind of India will they leave behind? What stark misery? When the stream of their two centuries administration runs dry at last, what a way of mud and filth they will leave behind them! I had at one time believed that the springs of civilisation would issue out of the heart of Europe. But today, when I am about to quit the world, that faith has gone bankrupt altogether.... As I look around I see crumbling ruins of a proud civilisation strewn like a vast heap of futility and yet I shall not commit the grievious sin of loosing faith in man".

(Tagore: Crisis in Civilization).

Appendix

On the midnight of 15th August, 1947, India was partitioned into two states, Indian Union and Pakistan. Yet, there was an incompleteness. Most of the princely states had opted either for India or for Pakistan. The three states created problems on Junagarh, Jammu and Kashmir and Hyderabad.

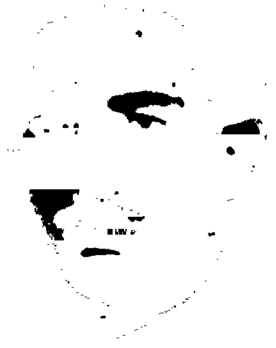
The smallest of these states was Junagarh. Despite the opposion of its subjects, Nawab was trying to opt for Pakistan. The popular leaders of Junagarh formed a provisional Government in nearby Sourashtra and started a big movement to save Junagarh. The Indian Government was forced to send a small army to Junagarh in September, 1947. In October, the Nawab fled to Pakistan and Junagarh was integrated to India without any bloodshed.

Maharaja Hari Sing of Kashmir was hesitating where to join—in India or in Pakistan. In the meanwhile, in October 1947, armed Pathans trained in Pakistan and led by the British officers, entered Kashmir and carried out loot, murder. In Barmula, they brutally murdered the heroic leader of the National Conference Mahammad Sherwani. On 26th October, they reached the banks of Jheelam in a bid to capture Srinagar. Then Maharaja had to release Sheikh Abdullah, the legendary leader of National Confernece from jail and join the dominion of India. From 27th October, Indian troops in Kashmir started landing. At Sheikh Abdullah's assurance the Hindus and Muslim in Kashmir fought heroically side by side with the Indian soldiers to push back the Pakistani invaders and liberated almost the whole of Kashmir excepting the small slice of area. In March, 1948, Sheikh Abdullah formed a popular ministry in Kashmir. Yet, the conspiracy of Pakistan, Britain, and U S A went on unabated against India in order to grab Kashmir.

Similar conspiracy also existed in Hyderabad. In October, 1947, the Nizam signed an agreement with the Government of India that within a year he would form a popular Government in his state and joined the Indian Union. But in reality, he went on trying to declare Hyderabad 'Independent'' and to join Pakistan. Secretly plenty of arms came to Hyderabad from Pakistan and from other imperialist states to arm the fanatical *Razakars*. On 13th September, 1948, Indian army was forced to enter Hyderabad. Within four days, the Indian army was victorious. This makes it clear how shallow was the basis of Nizam autocracy.

Apart from the princely states there were small territories owned by French and Portugese Imperialists. The French had five small colonies — Chandannagar, Pondicheri, Karaikel, Yanam and Mahe.

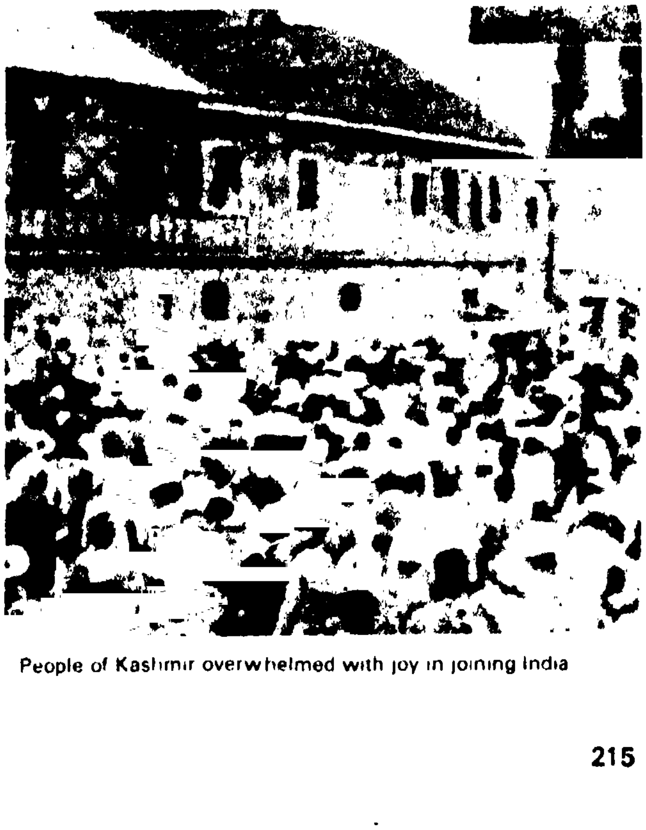
Sheikh Adbullah and other leaders of the National Conference.



Martyr Mahammad Sherwani



Sheikh Abduilah



People of Kashmir overwhelmed with joy in joining India

Among these Chandannagar and Pondicheri have special places in India's freedom struggle. The revolutionary movement obtained from Chandannagar such eminent sons like Charu Ch. Roy, Motilal Roy, Upendranath Bandyopadhyay, Kanailal Dutta, Srish Ghosh, Narendranath and Basanta Bandyopadhyay. Other eminent revolutionaries like Aurobindo Ghosh, Rashbehari Bose, Jadugopal Mukhopadhyay, Atul Ghosh, Probodh Biswas, Ganesh Ghosh, Loknath Bal, Ananda Gupta, Jiban Ghosal, Suhasini Ganguli, Sasadhar Acharya, Dinesh Majumder, Nalini Das and others got shelter in Chandannagar. Similarly, Aurobindo, Subrahmanya Bharati and V.V.M. Ayre obtained shelter in Pondicheri. However, the famous communist leader Mahammad Ali when he tried in 1924 to enter India through Pondicheri he was sent back.

Side by side with the Indian Independence struggle, freedom movement also broke out in other French colonies. In October, 1948, the people of Mahe revolted and the French army surrendered to them. In 1949, the people of Chandannagar through a referrendum opted for entry into India and the Indian Government also took over its administration.

In Pondicheri the French unleashed a reign of terror. The communist leader V. Subbaia was elected to Chamber of Deputies in France from Pondicheri. He raised the demand of entry into India. Ultimately, 170 out of 178 elected representatives of French-India voted for integration with India on 18th October, 1954. This was followed by the agreement between India and the French Governments and on 1st November, 1954, French rule ended in India.

In 1510, the Portugese established their rule over Goa and gradually tried to expand their empire. However, ultimately Britain became supreme in India and the Portugese colonies remained restricted to only five—Goa, Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar-Haveli.

Portugal was a very backward country in Europe, but over and above its colonies in India had a vast empire and in Africa. Between 1895 and 1899, Dada Rane revolted against the Portugese rule in India and was sentenced to transportation for life in far away Mozambique. Throughout the Portugese empire from 1928 to 1974, there existed a brutal Facist dictatorship led by Salazar. In India there have been repeated attempts to revolt against the Portugese empire but every time the rebellions had been crushed with utmost ruthlessness.

In 1928, the father of the Independence movement in Goa, Tristan Braganza Kunha established the Goa Congress Committee with the specific aim of liberating Goa, and integrating it with India. Meetings and demonstrations were banned in Goa. In 1943, Braganza Kunha and many other leaders were arrested and shipped away as prisoners to Portugal or to Portugal's African colonies. Duttatreya Deshpande was released only after the country became free. Braganza Kunha was detained in the Fort Peniche for four years and taken to Lisbon. He was released from jail, but not allowed to return to Goa. In 1953, he escaped from Portugal, returned to his native land and built up the Goa Action Committee there. A section of the Goa Congress took to the path of armed liberation struggle and became wellknown as



French Colonies integrated with India



Dada Rane revolted against the Portugese Empire



Father of Goa Independence movement Tristan Braganza Kunha with two others



Bala Rai Mapari



Martyr Nityananda Saha (Bengal)

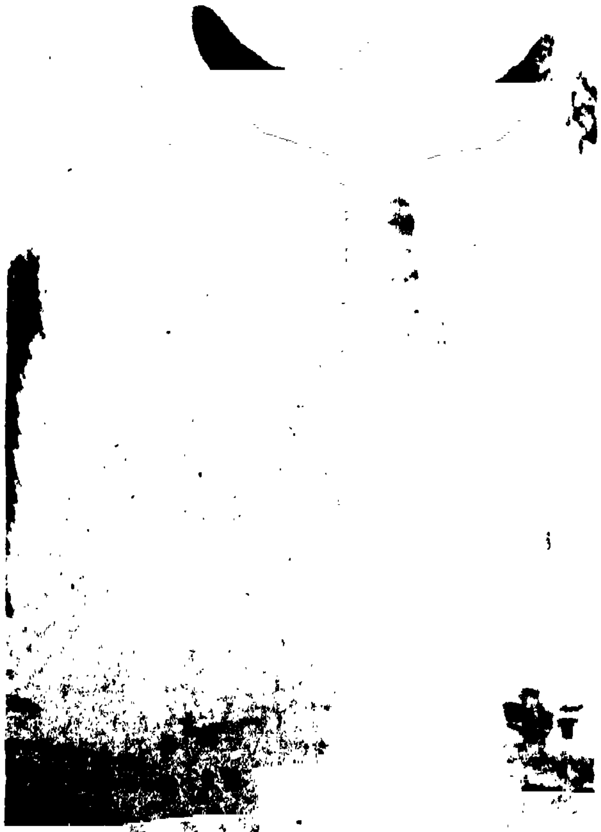


Martyr Jarnail Singh (Punjab

Azad Gomantak Party. In 1954, Dadra and Nagar-Haveli were liberated, but the Portugese retaliated with terrible repression in Goa Many were sentenced to death many others like Bala Rai Mapari were brutally murdered. Many others were killed during the armed liberation struggle. Among them were Camilo Perera, Manohar Pednekar, Jashowant Adgar Wadeker, Kidar Anvekar, Balkrishna Bhonsle, Amrut Chovangkar, Bala Desai, Pandurang Kenkre, Purusotwam Karkar, Suresh Karkar, Fataba Nayek, Raghunath Shirodkar, etc.

From 15th August, 1955, onwards, a non-violent satyagraha movement started to cross the border of Goa. Satyagrahis came from other province of India. The Portugese ruthlessly killed many of them with bullets. Among the martyrs were Sitaram Suri of Andhrapradesh, Baburao Thorat, M.N. Wadekar and Tulsiram Hirve of Maharashtra as well as Kalyan Sharma and Jaganmohan Chaparala of Central Province and Nityananda Saha of West Bengal. The R.S.P. leader and M.P. Tridib Chowdhury was arrested and sent to Lisbon jail. He was released from there after 14 months. On 2nd September, 1955, in a speech in Bombay. Braganza Kunha declared "India now knows what is Fascism. The brutal massacre of unarmed satyagrahis has shown us the true character of Portugese rule in India. It is no longer a problem of the Goans only but of all Indians".

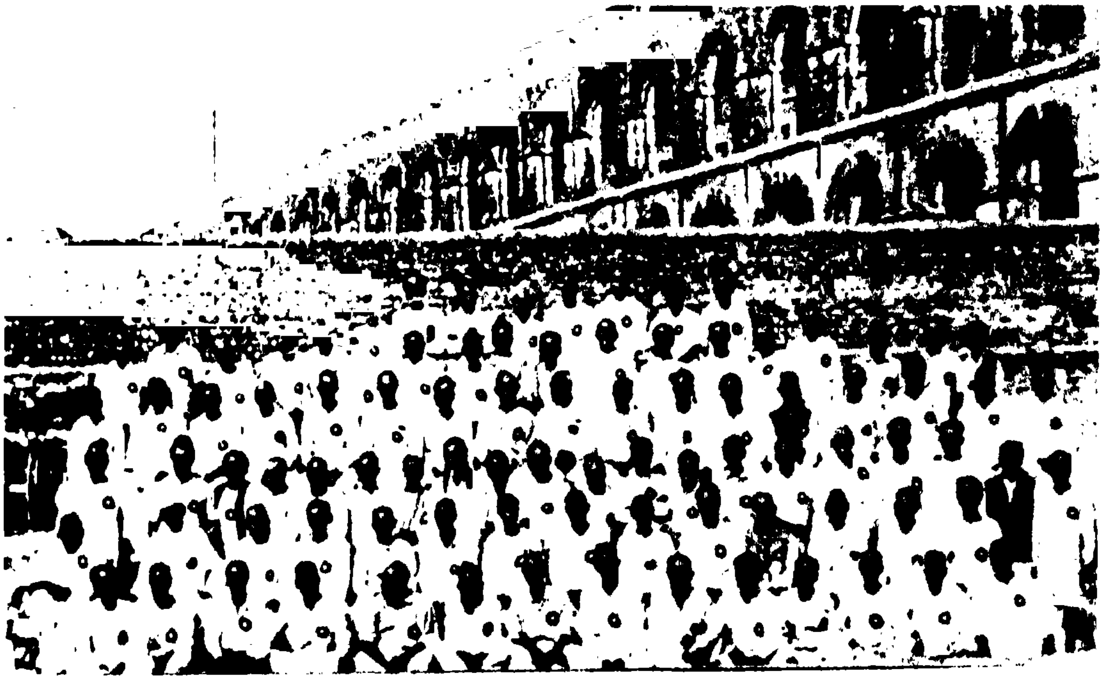
That is why on 16th December, 1961, an armed expedition started for liberating Goa under the supreme command of Lieutenant General Jayanta Chowdhury. This was known as Operation *Bijoy*. After only 26 hours, the Portugese army surrendered unconditionally and the Indian National Flag flew all over Goa, Daman and Diu. India started ruling in all those bases.



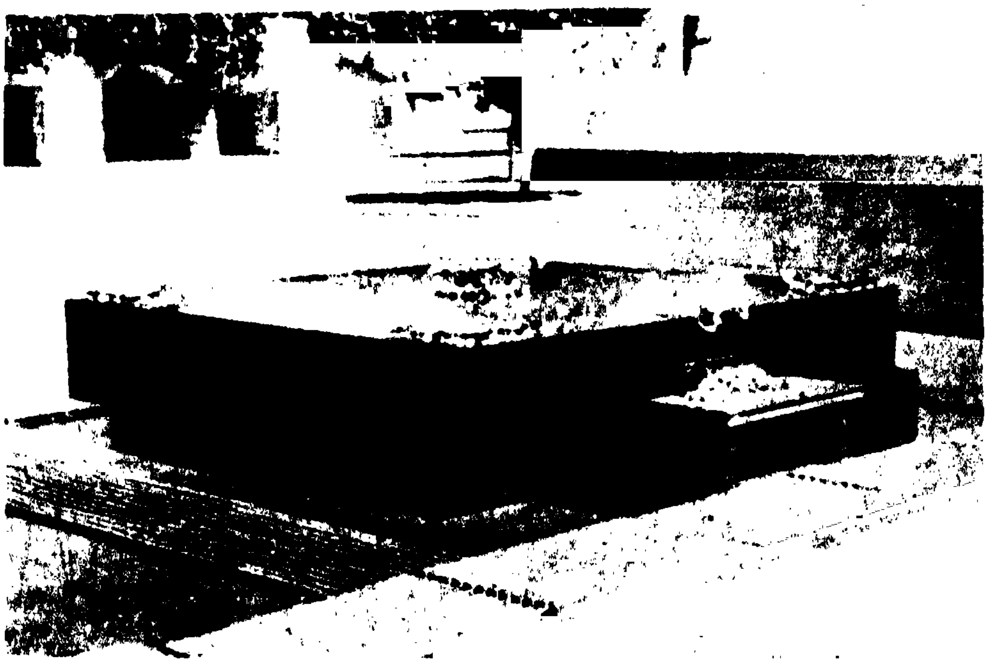
Memorial at Goa



Conference of Revolutionaries in Delhi after Independence



Free prisoners outside the walls of Andaman Celular jail



Memorial of Gandhiji

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